

THE STRAITS TIMES

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Muhammad Jaris Goh, 24, led the Singapore men's bowling team to a historic bronze medal at the World Men's Championships in December, and another bronze at the Asian Games in August last year.
ST PHOTO: GAVIN FOO

Bowler who flew S'pore's flag high is ST Athlete of the Year

For leading the Singapore men's team to a historic bronze at the World Men's Championships in December and another bronze at the Asian Games last August, Muhammad Jaris Goh became the first bowler to win The Straits Times Athlete of the Year award.

The 24-year-old received his trophy from Minister for Culture, Com-

munity and Youth Grace Fu before 190 guests at a ceremony held at the Shangri-La Hotel yesterday. It was the 11th edition of the award.

St Andrew's Secondary hockey captain Sean See was named the ST Young Athlete of the Year. It was the second time this trophy was awarded.

The 16-year-old was recognised

for his commendable act of sportsmanship during the Schools National B Division hockey bronze-medal play-off against Northland Secondary in March last year.

Ms Fu also announced at the ceremony that national sports agency Sport Singapore would provide extended support of \$3 million to athletes aiming to compete at this year's SEA Games and next year's Asean Para Games, Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

This fund applies to athletes who do not qualify for the top-tier Sports Excellence Scholarship but show potential to excel and achieve a podium finish.

Wang Meng Meng
SEE SPORT C10-14

Harsher penalties on the cards for driving offences

Two new classes of offences, longer jail terms among proposed changes; fines will also go up

Ng Huiwen and Zaihan Mohamed Yusof

Reckless and irresponsible motorists will find themselves staring at longer jail terms and steeper fines and possibly have their vehicles seized, as the authorities look to harden the law to make roads safer.

Dangerous driving and careless driving will be introduced as two new offences, with drivers charged with the more serious dangerous driving facing up to eight years for the first offence if a victim is killed – three years more than under current laws.

The driver could also face up to two more years in jail if under the influence of alcohol or drugs. And for egregious cases of irresponsible driving, the prosecution can apply to the courts to forfeit the vehicle.

Revealing these proposed changes to the Road Traffic Act (RTA) yesterday, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs and National Development Sun Xueling said: "We want to increase the penalties for motorists who drive irresponsibly and cause serious accidents.

"This will deter them and ensure that they receive sentences that are commensurate with the harm they caused."

The difference between dangerous and careless driving will depend on factors such as whether the motorist was driving at excessively high speeds or very close to others.

Each offence will have four tiers of severity, depending on the harm caused, such as death, grievous hurt, hurt and endangering a life.

For dangerous driving, offenders will face a minimum sentence of at least a year if death or grievous hurt is caused, and courts will also be able to impose a minimum disqualification period of eight years. The jail term will be doubled for repeat offenders.

Those convicted of careless driving may face up to three years in jail for the first offence, with sentences for repeat offenders doubled. This is up from the current jail term of a maximum of six months for first-time offenders.

"The basis for higher penalties is that motorists, being in control of a vehicle that they know can potentially cause great harm to other road users, ought to exercise greater care and responsibility," the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement yesterday.

Current laws allow vehicle seizures only in certain situations, such as illegal racing, but this could change. "We think we should be able to forfeit vehicles for more offences. For example, in cases of dangerous driving that cause death or grievous hurt," said Ms Sun.

From April 1, the composition fine sums for road traffic offences are also being raised. For instance, a car driver who runs a red light will be fined \$400, double the current \$200.

For drivers of heavy vehicles, the fine will go up from \$230 to \$500. Pedestrians who fail to cross at a pedestrian crossing face a \$50 fine, more than double the current \$20, while cyclists will be fined \$75 for careless riding instead of \$20.

Ms Sun said the last time the

fines were reviewed was about 20 years ago.

"The increase in composition fines for heavy vehicles will be higher than that of light vehicles. This is because heavy vehicles are more likely than light vehicles to cause death or serious injury when they are involved in accidents," she said.

The proposed tougher laws come amid growing feedback on the issue from the public. The Traffic Police received 18,500 instances of such feedback about irresponsible driving last year, compared with 6,900 in 2014.

The number of summonses issued has also risen despite fewer road traffic accidents seen in the past five years, MHA said.

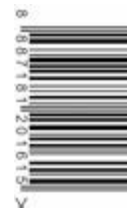
Between 2015 and last year, the number of summonses issued by the Traffic Police rose by a fifth, from 152,700 to 181,000.

There were 22 per cent fewer fatal accidents last year, compared with 2014. Similarly, the number of accidents resulting in injury dipped 3.6 per cent in the same period.

MHA has invited the public to submit feedback on the proposed amendments to the RTA, which can be seen on Reach, the Government's feedback portal. The feedback platform is open until March 13.

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SEE TOP OF THE NEWS A6



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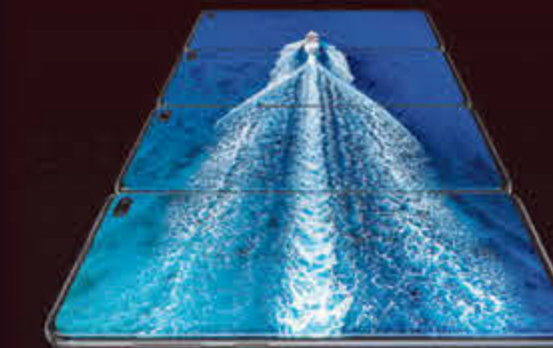
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10 must-reads for today

1 Summit on abuse

Pope Francis called for "concrete measures" to tackle paedophilia at the opening of a landmark summit at the Vatican yesterday. Over the next 3½ days, the pontiff will discuss the church's response to child abuse by members of the clergy with bishops from around the world. **WORLD A22**



Activists outside St Peter's Basilica yesterday, the opening day of the landmark summit at the Vatican on fighting child sex abuse within the Catholic Church. Among other things, they were asking for members of the community to put an end to clerical sexual abuse and seek justice for victims. PHOTO: EPA-EFE

2 Curbing reckless driving

Proposed changes to the Road Traffic Act mean irresponsible and reckless motorists may face longer jail terms and have their vehicles seized. Dangerous driving and careless driving under the Act will also correspond broadly to offences of rash act and negligent act under the Penal Code. **TOP OF THE NEWS A1**

3 Faster aid for abused

Victims of harassment, including unmarried individuals, will soon be able to get protection from their abusers more easily and quickly with changes to the law. This includes expedited protection orders against abusers within 24 hours and immediate arrest of a partner who breaches court orders. **TOP OF THE NEWS A6**

4 Jakarta eyes Natuna waters

Indonesia plans to set up fishing grounds in waters north of the Natuna islands in a bid to assert its sovereignty over an area it says has been occasionally breached by fishing vessels from China and Vietnam. **WORLD A19**

5 Facing the forces of change

Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat's Budget statement offers useful pointers for others in Asia on meeting the challenges posed by the forces of change sweeping through the region, says associate editor Ravi Velloor (below). **OPINION A23**



6 Workplace deaths at new low

Last year, 41 workers died from workplace injuries, one fewer than the year before. This was a record low number. But more workers were injured at the workplace last year, with the injuries seen across a variety of industries. **HOME B3**

7 Newspaper vendor fatally hit

For more than 50 years, Mr Oh Swee Hai delivered newspapers in the Shunfu area on his motorcycle. But yesterday's newspaper round was the last one for the 70-year-old, who was killed on his way home in an accident involving an SBS bus and a lorry. **HOME B6**

8 Record high EU-S'pore trade

Trade in goods between Singapore and the European Union reached a record high of €58.1 billion (\$89 billion) last year, a 9 per cent rise from 2017. The figures come after European parliamentarians gave the nod for the upcoming EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, which looks set to be ratified later this year. **BUSINESS C1**

9 Sane 'sad' despite City win

Even though his Champions League outing ended on a happy note, Leroy Sane (right) felt sorry for scoring against his "former love" Schalke. With 10-man Manchester City down 2-1, he equalised against the side he left in 2016 and Raheem Sterling's late winner gave them a precious win in Germany in the last-16 first-leg clash. **SPORT C8**

10 Xinyao contest album out

Crescent Girls' School student Amritha Devaraj, 15, is one of the singers featured on an album of winning tracks from the National Schools Xinyao Singing and Songwriting Competition.

Called Xin Kong Xia 2019, the digital album was launched yesterday. **LIFE D8**



PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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VIDEO

Hangout with ST

Multimedia journalists Alyssa Woo and Hairianto Diman talk about how SingPost can improve its services; the recent Budget measures; and the late Karl Lagerfeld, who had some memorable quips. <http://str.sg/hangout52>



WEB SPECIAL

Shopping 'advisory'

The goods and services tax import relief has been tightened for travellers returning to Singapore. Here are eight things to note before making your purchases abroad. <http://str.sg/travelGST>



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Harassment victims set to get faster aid with changes to law

Protection may be extended to family in bid to curb violence among partners

Cara Wong

In a decisive move to curb violence among intimate partners, victims of harassment, including unmarried individuals, may soon be afforded protection against their abusers more easily and quickly.

Victims at risk of violence would also be able to get expedited protection orders within 24 hours.

Such protection could also be extended to the victims' family members – such as their parents or children. Meanwhile, if the violent partner breaches court orders, he or she could face immediate arrest and eventually harsher punishment.

Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam yesterday addressed the dark side of relationships, where intimate partners inflict pain and violence, and he revealed how the Government was changing the law to help the victims. He was speaking at an event organised by family violence specialist centre Pave.

Acknowledging that it is currently difficult for unmarried victims of partner violence to get legal help, he said: “We will do all we can to help people like you.”

Unmarried victims, he said, could not apply for personal protection orders under the Women’s Charter, while it takes some time for them to get protection via magistrate’s complaints or under the Protection from Harassment Act (Poha).

All that is set to change. Mr Shan-



mugam said: “The changes we are making to the law, whether under Poha or the Penal Code, recognise that people need quick justice.”

Poha, which was passed in 2014 to cover areas including bullying and sexual harassment, is set to be amended in the coming months. A new court would be set up to hear all matters related to Poha so that victims do not have to shuttle between the civil and criminal courts.

Critically, if the changes take effect, relief would come faster. “There are cases where one more night in the home could be paved with a lot of risks,” said Mr Shanmugam.

Those who are at risk of violence could also be able to apply for and get an expedited protection order (EPO) within 24 hours. This interim protection order would be in effect until the court makes a final decision. Currently, there is no time-frame for an EPO – which can be valid for up to 28 days – to be granted by the courts.

The burden of proof for victims applying for protection orders and EPO is also set to be reduced, said Mr Shanmugam. In addition, friends and families of victims could be protected under the victim’s protection orders. This is because they are of-

ten at risk of being harassed by perpetrators, he noted.

Swifter and harsher action would be taken against abusers who breach the protection orders, it has been proposed. They could be arrested immediately without a warrant, and repeat offenders will face double the penalties. Those who breach the orders currently face up to six months in jail and a fine of \$5,000.

Mr Shanmugam said: “No one should undergo such violence... and certainly not at the hands of a person they trust.”

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Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam with Pave’s senior social worker Adisti Jalani at its Dating Violence Awareness Week event yesterday. PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

Ex-boyfriend’s attacks left her blind in one eye

He pampered her with gifts and was her perfect boyfriend in the first three years they were together.

But Amy’s (not her real name) nightmare began after she agreed to move in with him in 2013.

It started with a slap, when the father of two blamed her for his young daughter’s fall.

“At first I thought it was my fault because I did not take good care of his daughter, but as the days passed, it got worse.... Then I knew this was not my fault... It was like he had a split personality,” said Amy, now 30.

The abuse worsened, and he beat her with “weapons” from “head to toe” – attacks which left her scarred and blind in her left eye, with only about 80 per cent vision in her right eye, said Amy.

The delivery driver would also constantly make her doubt her self-worth, calling her stupid.

But leaving him was not easy, she said.

He withheld her phone from her, kept her locked at home, and made her cut off all contact with her friends and family.

It did not help that she still felt some love towards him, said Amy, explaining that he still pampered her after the beatings. “There was one time I asked myself why do I stay in this relationship? And the answer was love,” she said.

He would also threaten her every time she tried to leave. Once, he even threatened her family members at their home, when he found out that she had approached them for help in leaving him.

Each time she tried to leave him, he tracked her down and made her return.

“At that point in time, I didn’t know what to do, so I just stayed with him,” she added.

She once called the police after a brutal beating, but he bullied her into retracting her statement.

But over the years, she grew more determined to leave him, helped in part by the counselling sessions provided by family violence specialist centre Pave. In 2016, she finally escaped.

It has not been an easy journey trying to keep away from her abusive former boyfriend, she added.

Not only did her family move house to avoid being found, but Amy also blocked his number, deactivated her social media accounts and stopped hanging out with most of her former friends.

Her efforts have since paid off as he has not found her and harassed her since, she added.

She even managed to find love again, and is now happily married to an old friend.

Amy, who works as a banquet server, hopes to encourage other victims to walk away from their abusive relationships and seek help. “Life is short, don’t stay in the dark with them, just move on,” she said.

Cara Wong

Jaywalking elderly pedestrians remain a concern

Zaihan Mohamed Yusof

Accidents involving elderly pedestrians dropped by 6.2 per cent to 259 last year, from 276 the year before.

Elderly pedestrian fatalities also dipped marginally from 26 in 2017 to 25 last year.

Yet, the Traffic Police Commander, Senior Assistant Commissioner (SAC) Gerald Lim, said elderly pedestrians remain a concern. For instance, one in four accidents involving pedestrians last year were related to the elderly, with 40 per cent of these accidents to do with jaywalking.

Also, the elderly accounted for 62.5 per cent of all pedestrian deaths last year, a spike from 57.8 per cent in 2017. About half of the fatal accidents that the seniors were involved last year were the result of jaywalking.

“The elderly pedestrians’ idea of road safety might be 20, 30 years ago, when the infrastructure was different,” said SAC Lim, speaking to the media on the sidelines of an event held at the Road Safety Community Park in East Coast Park yesterday.

“Now, vehicles travel faster and PMDs (personal mobility devices) are on shared paths. They may not be familiar with these and the speeds at which they can go.”

In the past few years, the Traffic Police, the Singapore Road Safety Council (SRSC) and agencies such as the Land Transport Authority have continued to engage elderly pedestrians through education and improvements made to road traffic infrastructure, said SRSC chairman Bernard Tay.

Ways of raising road safety awareness include skits performed by artists at various constituencies, test kits to test an elderly pedestrian’s reaction and teaching students safe ways to cross roads with the hope they take home the message of road safety to their grandparents and caregivers.

SAC Lim added that making changes to infrastructure like spe-

Staying safe on the road

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

DOWN

	Accidents resulting in injuries	% change	Drink-driving arrests	% change
2017	7,726		2,078	
2018	7,690	▼ 0.5%	2,002	▼ 3.7%

	Elderly pedestrian fatalities	% change	Elderly pedestrian accidents	% change
2017	26		276	
2018	25	▼ 3.8%	259	▼ 6.2%

UP

	Fatal traffic accidents	% change	Fatalities	% change
2017	117		121	
2018	120	▲ 2.6%	124	▲ 2.5%

	Drink-driving accidents	% change	Drink-driving accidents involving motorcyclists	% change
2017	150		39	
2018	176	▲ 17.3%	59	▲ 51.3%

	Red-light running violations	% change	Red-light running accidents	% change
2017	46,599		117	
2018	53,910	▲ 15.7%	120	▲ 2.6%

	Accidents involving motorcyclists	% change	Injuries of motorcyclists and pillion riders	% change
2017	4,270		4,803	
2018	4,358	▲ 2.1%	4,837	▲ 0.7%

	Fatal accidents involving motorcyclists	% change	Deaths of motorcyclists and pillion riders	% change
2017	45		44	
2018	65	▲ 44.44%	61	▲ 38.6%

Source: SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

cialised traffic lights for senior citizens or building more “silver zones” alone is not good enough as “it needs to be coupled with education”, or what he described as “re-education”, for senior citizens.

Meanwhile, to inculcate good motoring habits, simulation training will be made compulsory for all learner motorists, including motorcyclists, as it would enable them to experience real-life traffic situations.

Another trend of concern is that of accidents involving motorcyclists. Fatal accidents involving them increased to 65 cases last year, from 45 in 2017.

Likewise, motorcyclist and pillion rider fatalities rose by 38.6 per cent to 61 last year, from 44 in the previous year. These deaths accounted

for almost half of all road traffic fatalities last year.

Accidents resulting in injuries where motorcyclists were involved increased by 2.1 per cent to 4,837 cases last year, from 4,803 in 2017.

Motorcyclist and pillion rider injuries increased slightly by 0.7 per cent to 4,837 last year, from 4,803 in 2017.

The Traffic Police will explore introducing defensive riding practical lessons for the Class 2B (200cc and below) learner riding curriculum.

According to statistics released yesterday, drink-driving accidents registered a spike last year, while the number of red-light violations and accidents also jumped.

There were 176 cases of drink-driving accidents last year, up by 17.3 per cent from 150 in 2017. The number

of motorcyclists who had been drinking and got involved in accidents also rose – by 51.3 per cent from 39 cases in 2017 to 59 last year. Drink-driving arrests dropped by 3.7 per cent to 2,002 persons last year, despite an increase in the number of enforcement operations conducted.

Violations involving running the red light saw a 15.7 per cent increase to 53,910 cases last year, from 46,599 in 2017. Accidents arising from motorists running red lights also rose slightly by 2.6 per cent to 120 cases last year, from 117 in 2017.

Overall, the road traffic fatality rate per 100,000 population rose slightly from 2.16 to 2.2 last year, reversing a gradual decline seen since 2010.

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HARSHER PENALTIES

Existing penalties

Under Penal Code			Under Road Traffic Act		
Offence	Maximum imprisonment term	Disqualification from Driving	Offence	Maximum imprisonment term	Disqualification from Driving
Rash act	Up to 5 years	Yes, if death is caused	Dangerous driving	Up to 5 years	Yes
Negligent act	Up to 2 years	Yes, if death is caused	Careless driving	Up to 6 months for first offence	Yes
				Sentence doubled, for repeat offenders	

Enhanced penalties under Road Traffic Act

Offence	Maximum imprisonment term	Disqualification from driving	Add-on penalties for dangerous and careless driving offences*	
			Maximum imprisonment term	Disqualification from driving
Dangerous driving	• Up to 8 years for first offence • Minimum sentence of at least 1 year, if death or grievous hurt is caused • Sentence doubled, for repeat offenders	• Yes, Courts can impose disqualification. Minimum period of 8 years, if death or grievous hurt is caused	• Up to 2 additional years for first offence • Minimum additional sentence of at least 1 year, if death or grievous hurt is caused • Additional sentence is doubled, for repeat offenders	• Minimum additional period of at least 2 years for first offence • Additional period is doubled, for repeat offenders
Careless driving	• Up to 3 years for first offence • Sentence doubled, for repeat offenders	• Yes, Courts can impose disqualification	• Up to 2 additional years for first offence. • Additional sentence is doubled, for repeat offenders	• Minimum additional period of at least 2 years for first offence. • Additional period is doubled, for repeat offenders

NOTE: * These apply if the motorist committed them while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. He will have the driving penalty and the driving under influence penalty added together.

Source: MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS



Cases mentioned by Sun Xueling

March 2015: A taxi driver was severely injured along the Pan-Island Expressway by a repeat drink driver. The cabby became bed-bound and uncommunicative for eight months until his death.

February 2016: A 62-year-old rag-and-bone woman was killed and her husband was severely injured after a drink driver, who had been drinking for nine straight hours, crashed into them.

October 2017: A four-year-old girl was killed after a car ran over

her along Bukit Batok Central.

February 2019: A car mounted a kerb and crashed into a female Punggol resident who was walking to church. Her foot was severed instantly.

February 2019: Police Staff Sergeant Salimah Mohamed, 41, had just finished her duty at Marina Bay Neighbourhood Police Centre when she was knocked down by a car at a pedestrian crossing. The mother of three children was declared brain dead. She was taken off life support on Valentine’s Day.

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Trump raises prospect of easing sanctions on N. Korea

But he stresses it can happen only if Pyongyang does something meaningful on denuclearisation

WASHINGTON/HANOI • A week before a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, US President Donald Trump held out the prospect of an easing of tough sanctions on the country, but only if it does “something that is meaningful” on denuclearisation.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Wednesday, Mr Trump also said he expects to

meet Mr Kim again after their Feb 27-28 summit in Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital.

Mr Trump said he did not think North Korea was reluctant to denuclearise, despite a lack of concrete progress since he and Mr Kim met for a first summit in Singapore last June. “I don’t think they are reluctant; I think they want to do something,” he said.

“We will see what happens. The sanctions are on in full. I haven’t taken sanctions off, as you know. I would love to be able to, but in order to do that, we have to do something that is meaningful on the other side.”

Mr Trump said he and Mr Kim

had “a good relationship”, and added: “I wouldn’t be surprised to see something work out.”

He said he and Mr Kim have made a lot of progress, but “that doesn’t mean this will be the last meeting”.

Mr Trump’s comment was his most explicit yet that the United States might be willing to consider easing sanctions on North Korea before Pyongyang completely abandons its nuclear weapons programme.

The administration has previously said that sanctions will remain in place until North Korea’s complete denuclearisation.

Mr Trump spoke as his special en-

voy for North Korea Stephen Biegun was due in Hanoi to finalise preparations for the summit. Mr Biegun is expected to hold talks with his counterpart Kim Hyok Chol, who arrived in Hanoi on Wednesday.

Mr Trump said on Tuesday that he wants North Korea to ultimately end its nuclear programme, but he had no pressing timeframe for this, provided it stuck to a nuclear and missile testing freeze in place since 2017.

When Mr Trump and Mr Kim met in Singapore, it was the first meeting between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader.

Mr Kim pledged then to work towards the complete denuclearisa-

tion of the Korean peninsula, but negotiations have made little headway since, with North Korea demanding a lifting of punishing US-led sanctions, a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War and security guarantees.

In September, Mr Kim expressed willingness to permanently dismantle facilities at his country’s main nuclear site of Yongbyon in return for corresponding US moves.

Mr Biegun held three days of talks in Pyongyang this month which he said would include discussion of such corresponding steps, but the State Department had offered no sign of any specific progress.

Mr Biegun said after his North Korea visit that his talks had been productive, but there was “hard work to do” before the summit.

Sources in Hanoi said earlier that Vietnam was preparing for Mr Kim Jong Un to arrive by train for the summit. It could take Mr Kim at least 2½ days to travel the thousands of kilometres through China by train, from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang to Vietnam, meaning he would have to set off later this week in time for his planned arrival on Monday. REUTERS

Revival of cross-border Kaesong project hinges on summit talks

SEOUL • It has been three years since Mr Park Yong-man’s factory was shuttered amid weapon tests and soaring tensions, but next week’s summit between the United States and North Korea may well signal the South Korean businessman’s lucrative return to the North.

His textile company, which employed around 300 North Korean workers, was one of 125 southern firms operating in the Kaesong Industrial Complex, a highly symbolic cross-border business project that made hundreds of millions of dollars for Pyongyang.

Seoul shut down the complex in response to a nuclear test and missile launches by the North, claiming that profits from the North Korean border city were funding Pyongyang’s provocations.

Despite toughened international sanctions against the North for its weapon programmes – which currently make restarting Kaesong almost impossible – the recent rapprochement on the Korean peninsula has renewed hopes for businessmen such as Mr Park.

“This will be my fourth excruciating year,” said Mr Park, who has been struggling to keep his business afloat since leaving Kaesong, where he had access to hardworking, low-cost skilled labour.

Like other businessmen in Kaesong, Mr Park paid the North Korean government US\$70 (S\$95) a month for each worker it provided – and critics say employees may have received only a fraction of that.

Mr Park said that since the closure, he has visited more than a dozen countries trying to find the ideal base for his operations. “And the answer was Kaesong,” he said.

He now runs two factories in China and Vietnam and a small production line in the basement of his Seoul office. When Agence France-Presse visited, five workers were diligently stitching uniforms for a Saudi Arabian cement company in a room ringing with the soft whir of sewing machines.

A survey conducted by the Korea Federation of Small and Medium Business last year showed 96 per cent of South Korean firms that had operations at Kaesong wished to return. Normalising operations at the complex was one of the key agreements reached between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the Pyongyang summit last September.

Mr Kim said earlier this year that he wanted to reopen Kaesong “without any preconditions”. The dovish Mr Moon has called cross-border economic cooperation “a blessing”, but an intricate web of sanctions tightened since the 2016 closure has halted further action. “For now, reopening the Kaesong Industrial Com-

plex is hard,” said Mr Kim Kwang-gil, a lawyer who was stationed in the factory zone from 2004 to 2013.

The tightened sanctions include bans on forming joint ventures with Pyongyang and operating financial institutions, such as a bank for the payment of wages, inside the impoverished state.

The United Nations sanctions also prevent exports of textile – a key product manufactured by Kaesong firms – from North Korea, and the US has banned all products manufactured with North Korean labour.

The transfer of bulk cash for workers’ wages has been banned by the UN Security Council, and paying North Korea in US dollars, as it did before the shutdown, would now be a violation of US sanctions.

Seoul could seek exemptions from the UN, Mr Kim Kwang-gil said, as it did for a cross-border railway project last year.

But these exemptions have so far been temporary and would not be ideal for guaranteeing Kaesong’s future, said Korea Economic Institute senior director Troy Stangarone.

Washington is reportedly mulling over sanctions relief for Pyongyang in exchange for a significant denuclearisation step ahead of US President Donald Trump and Mr Kim Jong Un’s second summit in Hanoi.

Ahead of the summit, Mr Moon told Mr Trump that Seoul was willing to “share the burden” with the US by resuming joint economic projects with the North, supporting it as it goes through the denuclearisation process.

The biggest sticking point in restarting the factory park is its potential use as a cash cow for the nuclear-armed North.

In 2017, Mr Moon denied claims by his predecessor that around 70 per cent of some US\$546 million spent at Kaesong was used for developing Pyongyang’s arsenal.

The North’s weapon programme benefited from Kaesong, Mr Stangarone said, even if the factory park did not directly finance it.

“It helped provide Pyongyang with the hard currency it needed to make purchases internationally – some legitimate, some related to its weapon programmes,” he added.

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told lawmakers last month that Seoul needed ways to reopen the complex without an inflow of hard currency.

Mr Kim Kwang-gil suggested that retailers could open outlets in the complex, where employers would pay for workers’ purchases.

But that would cut Pyongyang out of the funding loop, Mr Stangarone pointed out, asking: “Would North Korea be willing to accept an alternative form of payment?”

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



Korea joint industrial zone



Kaesong

Established in **2004**

125 South Korean firms

Employed some **54,000** North Korean workers

South Korean companies invested some **US\$546m** in the complex

Source: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Above: South Korean businessman Park Yong-man checking uniforms produced in the basement of his Seoul office. It has been three years since his factory in the Kaesong Industrial Complex was shuttered amid soaring tensions. His textile company, which employed around 300 North Korean workers, was one of the 125 South Korean firms operating in the complex, a cross-border project.

Below: The Kaesong Industrial Complex area, as seen from a South Korean observatory post.
PHOTOS: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



Ex-school teacher accused of having sex with 15-year-old student

Shaffiq Alkhatib

A former secondary school teacher was yesterday accused of having multiple sexual encounters with his underage female student in 2015.

The 41-year-old man, who taught in a school in the north-eastern part of Singapore, was charged

with 20 counts of sexually penetrating a minor.

He is claiming trial to all the charges and cannot be named due to a gag order to protect the girl’s identity.

The man, who left the teaching service in 2017, is accused of committing the offences when the girl was 15 years old.

The teenager is said to have gone to his home on Aug 10, 2015, and they had sexual intercourse for the first time. They allegedly continued to have more sexual activities until Sept 24 that year.

Deputy Public Prosecutor James Chew said the girl was the first witness.

The hearing was in camera –

not open to the public – when she testified in court. Parties not involved in the case, such as journalists, were told to leave the courtroom.

The man was expressionless as he stood in the dock before District Judge Chay Yuen Fatt yesterday.

He is represented by lawyer Ravinderpal Singh and is now out

on bail of \$25,000. The trial resumes today.

There have been previous cases of teachers being dealt with in court over sexual offences committed against minors.

For instance, on Feb 23, 2009, a married female teacher was jailed for 10 months for having sex with a then 15-year-old boy.

She was the first woman to be taken to court for the offence.

On June 30, 2014, a male teacher was jailed for four years and nine months after pleading guilty to four counts of having sex with his then 15-year-old former student.

He also admitted to one count of performing an obscene act on her.

Offenders convicted of sexually penetrating a minor can be jailed for up to 10 years and fined on each charge.

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Mattress Pad(Memory)

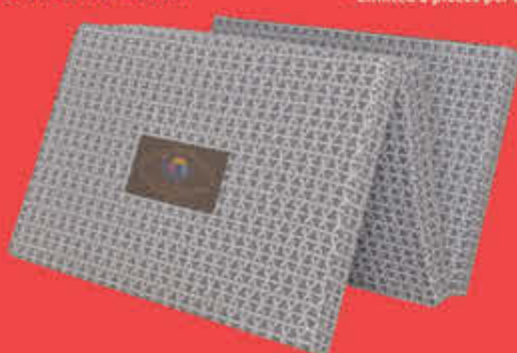
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- Junction 8 Shopping Centre, #03-02A
- Chinatown Point, #02-04
- Hillion Mall, #B1-64
- Lot One Shoppers Mall, #03-15

- Clementi Mall, #04-09
- Hougang Mall, #03-09
- Compass One, #04-17
- Nex, #03-18
- Jurong Point, #03-16
- Causeway Point, #04-12
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Singapore wants to remain open to both China and US: Chan

It aims to be a neutral place where Europe, US and China can do economic activities, he says

Singapore is looking for a middle ground so it can remain open to both the United States and China amid increasing tensions between the world's two largest economies. The "stay neutral" strategy was outlined by Trade and Industry Minister Chan Chun Sing, who said yes-

terday: "Our role is to keep asking ourselves how we can value-add to China and the US at the same time. "We play in a space where we want to remain neutral, remain open so that this is a place where US, China, Europe can come, be engaged and conduct productive eco-

nomics activities – and I think that is how we position ourselves." Mr Chan also pointed to the challenges Singapore faces beyond those thrown up by the escalating trade conflict. "Trade frictions – those are perhaps just at the surface. There are wider issues that have to do with the technology competition and, even wider than that, perhaps geo-strategic competition," he said of the US and China.

"Results of the talks will very much depend on the domestic politics of both the US and China." Mr Chan told Bloomberg TV: "I don't think we want to be in the position whereby we are only dealing with one and not the other, and I believe this is the same position for the rest of the Asian countries as well. Everybody wants to be plugged in." He also noted that Singapore can mount a compelling pitch to attract global firms like Dyson, which said last month that it would move its headquarters here from Britain. Mr Chan pointed to the longer-term business and political certainty here, "superior connectivity" and strong intellectual property laws as selling points for foreign firms to relocate to Singapore. The minister also narrowed his focus in the interview to more local issues raised by Monday's Budget statement. He said tightening foreign worker rules was a "surgical" move targeted at specific industries to fine-tune the labour market. The aim is "to make sure that the Singapore foreign manpower dependency is on a sustainable

trajectory", Mr Chan said. "We are not going to have an unlimited number of foreign workers in Singapore, but what we have and what we want is a higher quality of foreign workers." Quotas for foreign workers in service industries such as food and retail will be lowered from next year to help boost productivity and curb labour growth. Mr Chan said Singapore would remain open to talent, particularly in industries such as artificial intelligence and financial technology, and is "playing for the long game" with this Budget. He added that the Government wanted to guide firms to being more "manpower-lean", while reassuring them that there will be benefits in the long run. "I don't think we run our foreign workers policy on a feast-and-famine strategy," Mr Chan said. "We want to have a smooth trajectory to allow our firms the ability to plan long term." He added that steps to help small businesses adjust to the policies will be outlined in the Budget debates. BLOOMBERG

LOOKING FOR MIDDLE GROUND

I don't think we want to be in the position whereby we are only dealing with one and not the other, and I believe this is the same position for the rest of the Asian countries as well. Everybody wants to be plugged in.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER CHAN CHUN SING, referring to relations with the United States and China.

Budget addresses not just current needs: Indranee

Hariz Baharudin

This year's Budget has set aside money not just for short-term needs, but also long-term ones, stressed Second Minister for Finance and Education Indranee Rajah. Highlighting plans to transform businesses through embracing technology and lifelong learning, Ms Indranee said these are part of long-term efforts to restructure the economy. "When you are planning as a government, you have to plan as a whole. And in this particular Budget, we have planned to address both short-term as well as long-term needs," she said at a feedback session on the Budget organised by the government feedback unit Reach. Around 150 people, including business leaders and young people, attended the event held yesterday at the Asian Civilisations Museum. In a poll conducted before the feedback session started, about half of them felt that the Budget seemed to be focused on addressing short-term concerns. "Actually, that is not what this Budget does – the Budget actually does both. It addresses current needs, but there is a long-term view to it," said Ms Indranee, who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

She also pointed to the 30 per cent of national spending set aside by the Government for defence, security and diplomacy efforts, and programmes such as SkillsFuture that are available to ensure Singaporeans upskill and upgrade themselves. The \$6.1 billion that will be set aside for the Merdeka Generation Package also drew queries. The package, for those born between Jan 1, 1950, and Dec 31, 1959, has benefits such as a Medisave top-up of \$200 a year for five years, a one-off \$100 top-up to the PASSion Silver Card and additional subsidies for outpatient care for the rest of their lives. Some asked why the benefits of the package were not means-tested. Ms Indranee said that the package was designed to recognise a generation's contributions, which is why the handouts for the Merdeka Generation are given to everyone who qualifies equally across the board, regardless of their circumstances. "For the Merdeka Generation Package, we felt that you are recognising a cohort, you are recognising the cohort's contributions. So all of them, from all different backgrounds, in their different ways, also contributed. So, that was the reason why it was felt that we will give it to them without means testing," she said.



Second Minister for Finance and Education Indranee Rajah (centre) and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and Social and Family Development Sam Tan (right), who is also Reach chairman, fielding questions from attendees at a feedback session on the Budget yesterday. ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR

Some asked why the Government is setting aside 30 per cent of total expenditure this year for defence, security and building good relations with neighbouring countries and major powers. Reach chairman Sam Tan said that a strong defence force had

made Singapore well-respected and allowed it to build connections with its foreign partners. Drawing upon his experience in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mr Tan, who is also Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and Social and Family Development, said: "My

own sense is that whenever we go into another country, we are treated well and with respect. Why? It is because we have a defence capability that is more than able to defend our interests. "So, people know that when we have a credible Singapore Armed

Forces, we are able to defend ourselves, and they take us seriously and they take the discussion seriously."

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SEE OPINION A24

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Food&Drink

Where to get the best prawn noodle soup



Ms Olivia Lum, chief executive of Hyflux, has been under the spotlight over her remuneration as the water treatment firm has struggled in recent times. PHOTOS: ST FILE, LIM YAOHUI



Retail investor offers counter proposal

Madam Loo Leong Hun was 55 years old when she was given a list of corporate bonds in June 2012 by a DBS relationship manager to invest in as she had savings in her POSB account.

"Hyflux preference shares was on the list, and it was strongly recommended as it was a strategic and national asset. The money was to facilitate expansion and build desalination plants. I thought I had invested in a good company... which was our nation's pride," Madam Loo, now 62, told the High Court yesterday.

One of some 34,000 registered holders of Hyflux perpetual securities and preference shares, Madam Loo was allowed yesterday by Justice Aedit Abdullah to voice her concerns, which he said are "shared by many of you".

But Justice Aedit added that he "may not be able to meet all of Madam Loo's concerns (yesterday) afternoon" as court proceedings were geared towards whether a scheme meeting should be called.

On the proposed plan, Madam Loo said that many individual investors, including herself, will be "ruthlessly eliminated from the balance sheet with very little money or equity returned to them".

Madam Loo proposed "a minimum or waived coupon" payment on her securities but for her initial investment or principal to be kept on Hyflux's books, The Straits Times understands.

She cited the case of another elderly investor who had invested in 2,500 preference shares. "She is 86, lives alone in a one-room flat and... has mobility problems. She used Hyflux dividends to pay off some of her daily expenses. Now, she has no more earning power," she said.

Asking for her proposal to be accepted, she said it is "a glimmer of hope" to recover her savings.

Grace Leong

Hyflux gets nod for scheme meeting over restructuring bid

Court allows retail investors who have firm's securities in CPF and SRS accounts to vote in person at April 5 session

Grace Leong
Business Correspondent

The High Court has approved an application by embattled water treatment firm Hyflux and three of its subsidiaries to convene a scheme meeting with its creditors over a

proposed restructuring.

The firm can now proceed with the scheme meeting on April 5 with unsecured creditors, including note holders and 29 banks, which make up one creditor class, as well as perpetual securities and preference shareholders, who make up another creditor class.

"Having considered all evidence, I am satisfied that the scheme meeting should be allowed to be called," Justice Aedit Abdullah ruled yesterday.

The restructuring plan will need to be approved by April 5 by at least 50 per cent in number and 75 per cent in value of each creditor class. "If one class fails, the scheme fails," Hyflux said.

Normally, under the law, individuals who hold investments through nominees would not be counted in a headcount vote at the scheme meeting. The nominees through whom they hold their securities would count only as one vote, even if they hold securities for several retail investors.

The retail investors would also not be able to attend the meetings; only their custodians may, said Hyflux's legal advisers.

But the High Court allowed retail investors who have Hyflux securities in their Central Provident Fund (CPF) and Supplementary Retirement Scheme (SRS) accounts to vote in person and be counted for both in number and value.

Under the proposed plan, around 34,000 registered holders of Hyflux perpetual securities and preference shares, which are owed \$900 million, will receive a total of \$27 million in cash and a 10.38 per cent share of the reorganised com-

pany. This means that for every \$1,000 invested, they will recover \$107.40, or an implied return rate of 10.74 per cent.

Unsecured creditors who do not hold perpetual securities and preference shares will receive 27 per cent of shares and \$232 million in cash distribution. For medium-term note holders, who are of a higher priority on the creditors' list, the implied return rate is 24.5 per cent, or \$245 for every \$1,000 invested.

The bulk of Hyflux's share capital, about 60 per cent, will go to SM Investments (SMI), a consortium of Indonesian conglomerate Salim Group and energy giant Medco Group. SMI has agreed to invest \$530 million in the firm.

If the scheme passes, then an extraordinary general meeting will likely be held before April 16 – the deadline Hyflux has with SMI to get the restructuring plan approved – for ordinary shareholders to vote on the issue of new shares to SMI. More than 50 per cent of them must vote "yes" for the issue of new shares to SMI and the waiver of a general offer.

Hyflux will hold its third round of town-hall meetings with holders of its notes, perpetual securities and preference shares, as well as ordinary shares, on March 13.

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The fire started in a four-storey building in Old Dhaka on Wednesday night, and spread quickly to nearby buildings. About 200 firefighters took more than five hours to bring the blaze under control. They said the building where the fire began had housed a plastics warehouse and contained flammable materials.
PHOTO: DPA

Bangladesh building fire kills at least 70; toll likely to rise

About 50 injured in blaze which is set to focus attention on lax safety regulations in buildings

Dhaka blaze



Fatal blaze broke out in apartment buildings said to also be used as chemical warehouses.

Source: AFP
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

DHAKA • The death toll from a fire in a centuries-old area of the Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, jumped dramatically to 70 yesterday, a fire official said, and could keep climbing as firefighters combed the wreckage of the destroyed building.

Large building fires are relatively common in impoverished Bangladesh, due in part to lax regulations, and have killed hundreds of people in recent years.

“So far, 70 bodies have been recovered. The number could rise further, as the search is continuing,” Mr Julfikar Rahman, a director of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, told Reuters.

The fire started in a four-storey building on Wednesday night and spread to nearby buildings in the Chawkbazar area of Old Dhaka, which dates back more than 300 years to the Mughal period.

Mr Rahman said at least 50 people had been taken to hospital, some in critical condition.

Hundreds of people rushed to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital to search for missing relatives, witnesses said.

About 200 firefighters took more than five hours to bring the blaze under control. They told reporters the building where the fire began had housed a plastics warehouse and contained flammable materials.



Above: Firefighters and others struggling to bring the blaze under control.



Left: A woman mourning outside Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, where many had gathered to search for missing relatives.
PHOTOS: REUTERS

Dozens of people were trapped in the buildings, unable to escape onto narrow streets clogged with traffic, as the highly combustible stores of chemicals, body sprays, and plastic granules erupted in flames.

Mr Rahman said the cause was still under investigation.

He said firefighters had struggled to find enough water to fight the blaze and had to draw supplies from a nearby mosque.

The fire is likely to focus attention on lax enforcement of building safety rules in Bangladesh, where accidents kill hundreds every year.

The Rana Plaza factory collapse in 2013 killed more than 1,100 workers, and a fire in a garment factory in 2012 killed 112 people.

Bangladesh fire service chief Ali Ahmed said the blaze might have originated from a gas cylinder before spreading to adjoining buildings which were also used as chemical warehouses. “There was a traffic jam when the fire broke out. It spread so quickly that people could not escape,” he said.

Witnesses said members of a bridal party in a nearby community centre were also caught in the fire and many of them were injured.

“The victims included passers-by, some people who were eating food at a restaurant and some members of the bridal party,” Dhaka Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Ibrahim Khan said.

Mr Sohag Hossain, one of the injured, told The Daily Star that he and two of his friends were working at a plastics factory in one of the buildings at the time of the fire. Suddenly, they heard a huge noise. They tried to flee but could not escape the fire.

In 2010, a blaze in an old building, also used as a chemical warehouse, killed more than 120 people in one of the worst fires in Dhaka.

After that fire, the Dhaka city authorities launched a crackdown on chemical warehouses in residential areas, but in recent years, the drive has ground to a total halt.

REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

It was like doomsday, say survivors

DHAKA • Chemical fireballs rained down and set rickshaws ablaze, while explosions rocked the streets, and pedestrians engulfed in flames ran for their lives, witnesses said after the inferno that killed dozens in a dense Dhaka neighbourhood.

Charred husks of cars, rickshaws and vans littered the narrow

streets along with hundreds of spray cans fired out by the explosions on Wednesday night.

Shocked firefighters told of the carnage they had witnessed.

“We found 24 bodies in one corner of a building and another nine bodies at a pharmacy where the shutters were down,” firefighter Shariful Islam said at the scene.

“They thought they would survive by bringing down the shutters.”

Meanwhile, those who did escape counted their blessings. Mr Mohammad Salim was walking home from his factory when a series of powerful explosions knocked him to the ground.

“Another man fell on me. His whole body was in flames. As I ran

for safety, I heard one explosion after another and saw a woman and her child in flames in a rickshaw,” he said from his bed at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

About a quarter of the 45-year-old’s body suffered burns, and doctors listed him in critical condition. Nine others at the hospital were also being treated for severe

burns. Mr Haji Mohammad Salahuddin, among those critically injured, told how he saw bolts of fire fall from the sky, setting ablaze a narrow road clogged with cycle rickshaws, vans and cars.

“The explosions were so loud it was like a war. The chemical jars were exploding on the upper floors and fireballs were falling on the streets,” he said. “I saw bodies burning all over the road.”

Mr Haji Minto, another resident in the area, said it was like “doomsday”, adding: “The flames were so intense that the firefighters could

do nothing for the first few hours.”

Another survivor, a Mr Dipu, had just closed up shop and was walking home with his two brothers and a niece, who was visiting.

“We were walking together. I don’t know why, but I went ahead of them for some reason. The next thing I heard was the blast,” Mr Dipu told The Daily Star.

“The fire was too big. I could not go near it,” he said, breaking down in tears. His brothers and niece were killed in the blast.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, THE DAILY STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK, NYTIMES

US, China ‘outline’ deal to end trade war

MOUs on structural issues being drawn up although sources caution talks could still fail

WASHINGTON • The US and China have started to outline commitments in principle on the stickiest issues in their trade dispute, marking the most significant progress yet towards ending a seven-month trade war, according to sources familiar with the negotiations.

The two largest economies in the world have slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of goods, slowing global economic growth, skewing supply chains and disrupting manufacturing.

During high-level talks, which began yesterday and continue today in Washington, officials remain far apart on demands made by US President Donald Trump’s administration for structural changes to China’s economy.

But the broad outline of what could make up a deal is beginning to emerge from the talks, the sources said, as the two sides push for an agreement by March 1. That marks the end of a 90-day truce that Mr Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to when they met in Argentina in December.

Negotiators are drawing up six memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on structural issues: forced technology transfer and cyber theft, intellectual property rights, services, currency, agriculture and non-tariff barriers to trade, according to two sources familiar with the progress of the talks.

China is proposing that it could buy an additional US\$30 billion (S\$40 billion) a year of US agricultural products including soya

beans, corn and wheat as part of the MOUs, according to the sources, who asked not to be identified because the plans are confidential.

The purchases would be on top of pre-trade-war levels and continue for the period covered by the memorandum, they said.

China has repeatedly offered to increase purchases of agricultural and energy products to shrink the

US trade deficit. Since December, it has resumed imports of some farm goods like soya beans. Mr Trump this week said “a lot of” corn would be next on Beijing’s shopping list.

Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng yesterday declined to comment on the MOUs.

The MOUs cover the most complex issues affecting the trading relationship between the two countries and are meant, from the United States perspective, to end the practices that led Mr Trump to start levying duties on Chinese imports in the first place.

One source cautioned the talks could still fail. But the work on the MOUs was a significant step in getting China to sign up both to broad principles and to specific commitments on key issues, he said.

The two sides are discussing an enforcement mechanism for the deal, the source said.

Several Chinese government sources told Reuters that the two countries have basically reached a consensus on alleviating the trade imbalances, but there were still some differences on each other’s “core demands”.

“We are now in the sprint phase, and both negotiating teams are working towards the goal of reaching an agreement within the deadline, but some problems are still quite complicated to resolve,” said one Chinese official.

Washington has accused Beijing of forcing American companies doing business in China to share their technology with local partners and hand over intellectual property secrets. China denies it engages in such practices.

Trump administration officials also object to non-tariff barriers in

China, including industrial subsidies, regulations, business licensing procedures, product standards reviews and other practices that they say keep US goods out of China or give an unfair advantage to domestic firms.

On currency, US officials including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin have warned China against devaluing its yuan to gain a competitive advantage after the Chinese currency weakened significantly against the US dollar last year, partly counteracting Mr Trump’s tariffs. REUTERS, BLOOMBERG

GETTING THERE

We are now in the sprint phase, and both negotiating teams are working towards the goal of reaching an agreement within the deadline, but some problems are still quite complicated to resolve.



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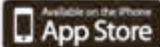
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KAL heiress accused of spousal, child abuse

SEOUL • The husband of a Korean Air (KAL) heiress, known for a “nut rage” tantrum that sparked uproar in South Korea, has accused his wife of abusing him and their young children, police said.

Cho Hyun-ah shot to international infamy in 2014 when she lost her temper over the way she was served nuts in first class on a plane before its takeoff from New York.

She was sentenced to a year in prison for hampering an air route after ordering the Seoul-bound Korean Air plane back to the gate so she could have a flight attendant taken off. She was later cleared on appeal and served just five months.

Her husband, surnamed Park, said Cho had physically and verbally abused him and their five-year-old twin sons since her release from jail in 2015. He filed charges against Cho on Wednesday.

“He is suing her for child abuse and inflicting of bodily injury, among other things,” an officer at

the National Police Agency told Agence France-Presse yesterday.

Cho and Mr Park, a plastic surgeon, first met in elementary school and married in 2010. They are in the process of divorcing.

Mr Park shared photographs of his neck and toe wounds with a local TV station, claiming they were inflicted by Cho, and said he had submitted photos and video footage of the abuse to police.

In the video, Cho allegedly shouts “Die! Die!” at Mr Park. He also claimed Cho threw spoons and chopsticks at their young children for “not eating quickly enough” and verbally abused them for “not falling asleep”.

A spokesman for Cho’s law firm Sejong denied the allegations, claiming Mr Park is an alcoholic and that his memories are flawed.

The firm also alleged that Mr Park was hospitalised for alcoholism three times during his marriage to Cho. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



Korean Air executive Cho Hyun-Ah (centre) after she received a suspended jail sentence from a court in Seoul, in May 2015, over her “nut rage” tantrum on board a plane the year before. Cho’s husband has accused her of abusing him and their young children. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KL to probe claims of judicial misconduct

PM Mahathir says terms of reference for commission of inquiry to be decided

KUALA LUMPUR • The Malaysian Cabinet has agreed to form a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) to look into allegations of judicial misconduct, said Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad yesterday, after a top judge sounded the alarm over claims of abuse and interference in the judiciary.

“We are setting up the RCI and it’s

up to them to look into the allegations made by the judge,” he said.

However, Tun Dr Mahathir said the terms of reference for the RCI have yet to be decided: “We will set up the RCI and the terms will be determined later.”

The setting up of the RCI comes after Court of Appeal judge Hamid Sultan Abu Backer alleged that se-

nior judges had intervened in the decision of numerous trials.

He made the allegation in a 65-page affidavit that was filed on Feb 14 in support of an application by the late MP Karpal Singh’s daughter, Ms Sangeet Singh Deo, to declare that the Chief Justice had failed to defend the integrity of the judiciary in court cases.

Datuk Hamid claimed the scams were carried out by nominees of politicians who had entered into contracts with the government.

Once the government pulled out of a deal, the private parties would take the government to court to claim compensation.

He alleged that these private parties created contracts with the government to defraud public funds, and the apex court was perceived to be sympathetic to them.

Soon after Dr Hamid’s revelation, legal experts and politicians called for an RCI to probe the allegations.

On another matter, Dr Mahathir said he will take a wait-and-see approach following claims by Parti Islam SeMalaysia (PAS) that there is an impending Pakatan Harapan (PH) coup against him. “I will wait and see if there is a vote of no-confidence. I will see if PAS will support me or not,” he said in response to

statements by the Islamist party pledging support for him in the event of a betrayal from within PH.

PAS secretary-general Takiyuddin Hassan has said a “sample” letter of support given to Dr Mahathir – which the PM has affirmed – during a meeting last Friday with the Islamist party’s president Abdul Hadi Awang, was to indicate “backing” only in the event of “a vote of no-confidence”.

Mr Takiyuddin said the alleged betrayal could come from “two component parties” within PH but declined to reveal which.

His comments drew a scathing response from PH’s allies including Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) chief Anwar Ibrahim, who said such claims were lies.

For a vote of confidence to succeed in Parliament, it must have the support of at least 112 out of 222 MPs. THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

Indonesia must control own assets: Prabowo camp

JAKARTA • A spokesman for the presidential campaign of Mr Prabowo Subianto and Mr Sandiaga Uno has said the presence of foreign entities in Indonesia’s seaports could threaten the country’s maritime sovereignty, similar to how its airspace is almost entirely controlled by neighbour Singapore.

“What Pak Prabowo has said is a fact, just like our air traffic, which is still controlled by Singapore,” Mr Ferdinand Hutahaean told online news portal timesindonesia.co.id in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Mr Ferdinand is from the Democratic Party, one of four political parties that nominated Mr Prabowo and Mr Sandiaga for the April 17 presidential election.

“This could threaten the sovereignty of our country. Our ports are managed by (state-owned port operator) Pelindo, but look at the subsidiaries that operate there, like in Tanjung Priok (in North Jakarta), the containers are handled by Hutchison,” added Mr Ferdinand referring to the Hong Kong-based port operator.

Mr Ferdinand was dismissing a statement by Pelindo II president director Elvyn G. Masassya, who said working with foreign firms is a

natural thing in the port business.

The Indonesian government has been pushing hard to enhance the local aviation sector in recent years to boost air connectivity and tourism. This involves it reclaiming the Flight Information Region, which Singapore controls for take-offs, landings and overflights in the region. Singapore has been managing flights over the area in Riau since 1946, after the International Civil Aviation Organisation allocated it the airspace on operational and technical merits.

According to Mr Ferdinand, allowing Indonesia’s ports to be controlled by foreigners is the same thing as selling Indonesia to others.

Mr Ferdinand is urging the government to immediately terminate the contract on the Jakarta International Container Terminal, which is 49 per cent owned by Hutchison, so that Indonesia can take over 100 per cent of its shares.

He also said he is committed to the future plans of the Prabowo-Sandiaga team that will see Indonesia reclaim its wealth now managed and controlled by foreigners. “We will take over to safeguard the sovereignty of our country, it’s time to think for the nation not for foreigners,” said Mr Ferdinand.

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STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Indonesia to set up fishing grounds off Natuna isles

Minister says waters subject to breaches by fishing vessels of other countries

Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja
Indonesia Correspondent
In Jakarta

Indonesia plans to establish fishing grounds in waters north of the Natuna islands, in a bid to assert its sovereignty over an area it says is being subjected to occasional encroachment by Chinese and Vietnamese fishing vessels.

Maritime Affairs Coordinating Minister Luhut Pandjaitan said on Wednesday that the government will build a designated fishing sea port and cold storage facility on one of the Natuna islands by the third quarter of this year.

It will deploy a fuel tanker there to ensure Indonesian fishermen have a guaranteed energy supply to power their boat engines.

"We will open up opportunities for our fishermen to go there. We get angry when other people go and fish there, while none of our fishermen are there," Mr Luhut told a media briefing.

Mr Atmadji Sumarkidjo, an aide to Mr Luhut, later told The Straits Times that foreign investors are welcome to build any facility on the Natuna islands to cater to the fishing industry, but only to process fish. They cannot take part in the fishing activity.

Although it lies in Indonesia's exclusive economic zone, the sea north of the Natuna islands was previously not named, and had been taken to be part of the South China Sea, which it borders.

Indonesia maintains it is not a party to the South China Sea dispute, in spite of diplomatic incidents involving the waters around the Natunas.

Two years ago, a senior Indonesian government official unrolled a map depicting an expansion of the nation's maritime territory, with the section of the South China Sea north of the islands named as North Natuna Sea.

This, however, has never been made official. President Joko Widodo made a trip to waters off the Natuna islands on board a naval warship in June 2016.

The rare trip, Mr Luhut told ST at that time, showed that while Indonesia did not expect any conflict with other countries, it remained firm in its position.

"We remain friendly but Indonesia's territory and sovereignty remain Indonesia's. This is non-negotiable," he had said, noting breaches by Chinese fishing vessels in the Natunas.

Mr Joko's trip followed an incident where Indonesian warships detained a China-flagged vessel and its crew for fishing illegally in waters off the Natuna islands.

A year later, a Vietnamese coast guard vessel intercepted an Indonesian maritime security patrol craft that was escorting five Vietnamese fishing boats that had been caught poaching. The clash led to the Indonesian authorities losing custody of all five Vietnam-flagged fishing boats.

Both sides resolved the incident through diplomatic channels and said they hoped to prevent future incidents in the South China Sea.

wahyudis@sph.com.sg

HIV data leak

Brochez could have committed fraud in HK

HONG KONG • Mikhy Farrera Brochez, an American wanted in Singapore for leaking online the personal information of 14,200 individuals with HIV, could have committed fraud in Hong Kong, according to the city's media.

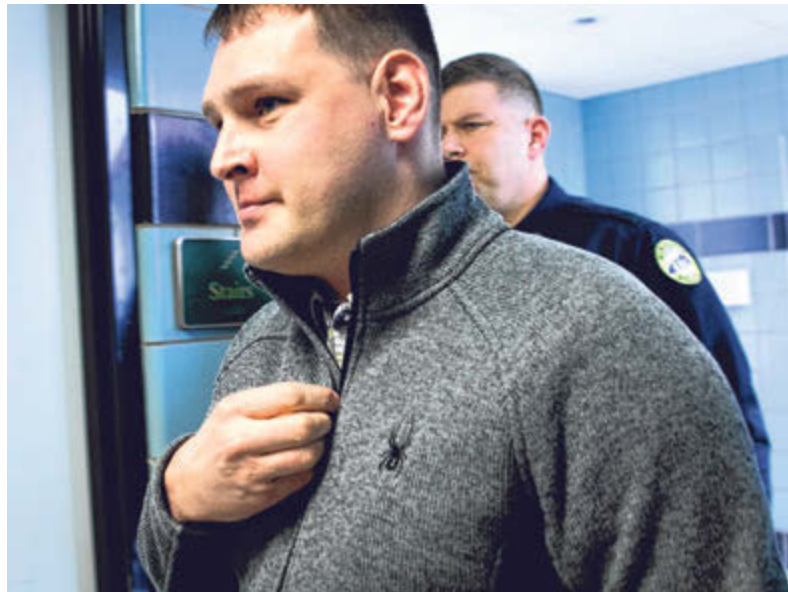
The South China Morning Post (SCMP) yesterday reported that Brochez ran education-related businesses in Hong Kong, charging up to HK\$8,000 (\$\$1,400) for each assessment of a child with special needs.

The 34-year-old, who faked his certificates and credentials as well as lied about being a qualified child psychologist to land teaching jobs in Singapore, is listed as executive director of a Hong Kong establishment called Guia Education, according to its website.

On Facebook, Guia says it "provides tailored early intervention for all children with special educational needs by a dedicated team of skilled professionals".

Under "Founding date" in the centre's profile, it lists "Mikhy Farrera-Brochez".

Guia Education lists Brochez's credentials as "APA, APS, MCOLT, MS DPSY, DipED". APA refers to



Mikhy Farrera Brochez after his court appearance in the US on Monday, on a charge of criminal trespass. PHOTO: ARDEN BARNES FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

the American Psychological Association and APS to the American Physiological Society.

An APA spokesman told SCMP that neither Brochez nor any of Guia Education's employees were members on its database.

Singapore investigators earlier re-

vealed that Brochez's educational certificates, including a doctorate in psychology and education from the University of Paris, were forged.

Citing veteran Hong Kong barrister Albert Luk Wai Hung, SCMP said Brochez could face charges of fraud if he used fake qualifications

to sell services to parents.

"That is because you were telling your clients you had such qualifications while you actually did not," Mr Luk was quoted as saying.

Brochez, who was deported from Singapore last April after serving a jail term for several fraud and drug-related offences, was arrested for criminal trespass at the home of his mother Teresa King on Dec 8 in Clark County, Kentucky, in the United States. He is next due in court on March 4, after his first appearance this Monday.

The HIV database of Singapore's Ministry of Health was leaked on Jan 22 by Brochez, who found the data after his partner Ler Teck Siang, head of the ministry's National Public Health Unit from March 2012 to May 2013 and had access to the HIV Registry for his work, allegedly downloaded the confidential information onto a thumb drive.

Brochez, who is HIV-positive, had been angry with Ler for disclosing his condition to a man called Zach, who Brochez had accused of coming between him and Ler, according to court papers and statements to police.

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Samsung IT and mobile chief executive officer DJ Koh says the company's Galaxy Fold "breaks new ground because it answers the sceptics who said that innovation of smartphones is over". The Fold will have 4G and 5G models, and will be available in the US from April 26, with prices starting at over \$2,700. PHOTO: SAMSUNG



In the fold: Samsung aims for 5G advantage

It is first mainstream phone maker to launch foldable model; high price may deter buyers

Trevor Tan
In San Francisco

GALAXY FOLD FEATURES

- 4.6-inch cover display when folded, but unfolds into a 7.3-inch tablet.
- Three cameras on its rear, two cameras at its front and a single cover camera.
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- 12GB of storage memory

The unveiling of Samsung's Galaxy Fold on Wednesday started an era of foldable and 5G phones.

At a media event held at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco, Samsung IT and mobile chief executive officer DJ Koh, said: "(The Galaxy Fold) breaks new ground because it answers the sceptics who said that innovation of smartphones is over."

The South Korean electronics giant is the first mainstream smartphone maker to bring a foldable phone to consumers ahead of similar announcements expected by its

rivals later this week.

Samsung also announced a 5G version of the handset, the first mainstream 5G smartphone, but details were not immediately available for this variant.

Also, 5G airwaves have not been allocated in many countries, so telcos are still unable to launch commercial 5G services. Even so, many telcos, such as those in Singapore, Britain, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand, are already conducting 5G trials.

The Straits Times understands that Singapore will be among the first in the world to start rolling out commercial 5G services next year. Once launched, users will be able to surf at speeds of up to 100 times faster than 4G networks.

The increased capacity and speeds offered by 5G networks will also be able to support industrial applications such as the con-

trolling of autonomous vehicles and a thriving ecosystem of smart appliances that require a constant connection.

Samsung's Galaxy Fold will have 4G and 5G models. They will be available in the United States from April 26, with prices starting at US\$1,980 (\$2,700).

Details about its Singapore availability and pricing are not available at the moment.

Analysts said that with its hefty price tag, the Galaxy Fold is not a smartphone for the average user.

Mr Patrick Moorhead, an analyst with technology advisory firm Moor Insights and Strategy, said the Fold is a "super premium" niche product.

Mr Frank Gillett, vice-president and principal analyst at research firm Forrester, said: "It will appeal to big spending, status seekers and to a niche of people willing to

pay extra for the flexibility of a folding large screen in their pocket."

The Samsung Galaxy Fold has a 4.6-inch cover display when folded, but unfolds into a 7.3-inch tablet. It uses a hidden hinge system - essentially multiple interlocking gears - to control the unfolding.

The device has three cameras on its rear, two cameras at its front and a single cover camera.

The Galaxy Fold features 512GB of Universal Flash Storage 3.0 which is two times faster than conventional flash storage, and 12GB of storage memory.

The Galaxy Fold is not the first consumer foldable smartphone. That honour goes to the Royole FlexPai, which is not a mainstream brand known by most consumers, launched last year.

Huawei and Xiaomi are also expected to unveil their foldable handsets at the end of the month during the Mobile World Congress 2019, the largest annual trade show for the mobile industry held in Barcelona, Spain.

Marketing professional Daniel Lee, 39, hopes that the price will come down. Another item on his wish list: A thinner phone for putting into his pocket.

"The foldable display needs refinement," said Mr Lee.

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44 killed by cow vigilantes in India over last 3 years, says report

NEW DELHI • Radical cow protection groups in India have killed at least 44 people over the last three years, and often received support from law enforcement and Hindu nationalist politicians, according to a new report from Human Rights Watch.

The 104-page report unveiled this week examined Hindu nationalist vigilante attacks and said 36 of the dead were members of India's large Muslim minority.

About 280 people have been injured in more than 100 attacks between May 2015 and December last year, the report by the New York-based group said.

Members of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which supports policies to protect cows revered by the country's majority Hindus, have "increasingly used communal rhetoric that has spurred a violent vigilante campaign against beef consumption and those deemed linked to it", the group said.

Mr Modi had previously condemned vigilante violence and said killing people because of cow worship is not acceptable. In India's federal structure, law and order is a state subject.

"No less than the Prime Minister called such elements criminals and urged state governments to act against anyone perpetrating violence under the false pretext of cow vigilantism," BJP lawmaker and spokesman G.V.L. Narasimha Rao said in a text message on Wednesday.

He said cow-related violence has also happened under opposition Congress party governments.

"BJP bashing is a favourite theme of organisations and international media."

The report, which also highlighted the impact these so-called cow vigilantes have had on the rural economy, comes ahead of national elections in which some expect increased religious tensions between Hindus and Muslims.

Human Rights Watch said there is no government data for cow-related incidents in the comparable period before Mr Modi came to power in 2014.

But the group cites Indian civil society and media groups, including a fact-checking site, that found such incidents took place between 2012 and 2015, with none resulting in any deaths.

There have been news reports across India of deadly attacks on Muslim dairy farmers and people suspected of eating beef.

The Human Rights Watch report is one of the first detailed surveys of deaths linked to violent cow protection groups, which are not tracked separately in official Indian crime statistics.

BLOOMBERG

Saudi prince in Beijing, set to meet Xi

BEIJING • Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in Beijing yesterday as he aims to seal partnerships on a high-profile Asia tour following a diplomatic crisis over a journalist's brutal murder.

Prince Mohammed is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on his trip, following visits to Pakistan and India.

The tour has allowed the royal to show that Riyadh still has allies after the grisly murder last year of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi - a fierce critic of the Crown Prince - at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul tarnished the Prince's image as well as the kingdom's.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road global trade infrastructure initiative will be on the agenda during the Prince's two-day visit, as the two countries look to improve their economic ties.

"Saudi Arabia has a lot of capital that needs to find profitable places to be deployed," Saudi Energy and Industry Minister Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih told China's official Xinhua news agency.

"China is a great place to invest, with a huge market and an improving environment," he said.

On Wednesday, Prince Mohammed met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose country counts Saudi Arabia as one of its key crude suppliers. After his meeting with Mr Modi, Prince Mo-



Mr Khi Li Fung (centre), deputy chairman of the advisory and political council of China, welcoming Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to Beijing yesterday. PHOTO: DPA

ammed said the kingdom saw investment opportunities in "various fields to exceed US\$100 billion (\$135 billion)".

Mr Xi, on his part, has made stepping up China's presence in the Middle East a key foreign policy objective, despite its traditional low-key role there.

China has given few details about the visit, but sources said Saudi Aramco plans to sign preliminary deals to invest in two oil refining and petrochemical complexes in China.

Saudi Aramco, the world's top oil exporter, will sign a memorandum of understanding to build a refin-

ery and petrochemical project in the north-eastern Chinese province of Liaoning in a joint venture with China's defence conglomerate Norinco, said three sources with knowledge of the matter.

Aramco is also expected to formalise an earlier plan to take a minority stake in Zhejiang Petrochemical, said two sources with knowledge of this particular deal.

The investments could help Saudi Arabia regain its place as the top oil exporter to China, which it has relinquished to Russia for the past three years.

Prince Mohammed's visit to China comes on the heels of a visit

by the Speaker of Parliament of the kingdom's arch-rival Iran, Mr Ali Larijani, who met President Xi on Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia, which has accused Iran of backing militant strikes, is involved in an ongoing sanctions campaign against fellow Gulf state Qatar - which Riyadh believes is working with Teheran, and supporting and funding "terrorism".

On Wednesday, the day before the Crown Prince arrived, Mr Xi told Mr Larijani that China's desire to develop close ties with Iran will remain unchanged, regardless of the international situation.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTERS

WorldBriefs

Second Queensland fruit fly found in Auckland

WELLINGTON • New Zealand yesterday set up hundreds of traps around its largest city, Auckland, after finding a second Queensland fruit fly, a species that poses a risk to the country's multibillion-dollar horticulture sector.

The first Queensland fruit fly, a solitary male, was collected from a surveillance trap and formally identified on Wednesday, the Ministry of Primary Industries said in a statement.

The Queensland fruit fly can damage a variety of fruit and vegetables. A widespread outbreak could hit farmers hard and lead to restrictions on horticultural exports such as the popular kiwi fruit. REUTERS

Beijing issues alert for heavy air pollution

BEIJING • The ecological environment bureau of Beijing has issued an orange alert for heavy air pollution, to take effect from today.

Unfavourable weather conditions, Lantern Festival fireworks and production resumption after the Chinese

New Year were blamed for the heavy air pollution blanketing Beijing and neighbouring provinces from Wednesday to Sunday, the national weather bureau said. XINHUA

Drone sighting at Dublin Airport halts flights

DUBLIN • Flight operations at Dublin Airport were briefly suspended yesterday due to the confirmed sighting of a drone, Ireland's largest airport said, the first time such disruption has been caused at an Irish airport. "For safety reasons, we are temporarily suspending flight operations at Dublin Airport due to the confirmed sighting of a drone over the airfield," the airport tweeted.

It announced the resumption of normal operations about 15 minutes after its first tweet on the drone sighting.

The Times newspaper, meanwhile, quoted unidentified sources as saying police were investigating the possibility that a disgruntled employee or someone else with good knowledge of the airport layout could have caused a similar disruption at London's Gatwick Airport for more than 48 hours in late December. DPA

News analysis

Splitting headache for Britain's main parties

Resignations by Labour, Tory MPs come as Brexit deadline looms, with no clear direction



Jonathan Eyal

Global Correspondent
In London

Britain's Conservative and Labour parties, which between them have alternated in running the country for a century, have been warned by their supporters that they face further internal splits after eight Labour and three Conservative MPs quit and now sit in Parliament as independent lawmakers.

The defections, the biggest in a generation, may herald the start of a broader and more spectacular meltdown of British politics, as a result of the country's decision to leave the European Union.

And they come barely a month before Britain is scheduled to leave the EU, further complicating the negotiations over the exit terms.

The Labour split came first, with seven MPs deciding to leave the party earlier this week. An eighth Labour MP quit a bit later, followed by three Tory defections.

Officially, defectors from the two parties have put forward different explanations for their actions.

Labour MPs cited their party's drift to the extreme left as their main reason for leaving, and also objected in particular to its inability or alleged unwillingness to confront persistent incidents of anti-Semitism.

"I cannot remain in a party that I have today come to the sickening conclusion is institutionally anti-Semitic," said Ms Luciana Berger, a feisty young MP from the northern English city of Liverpool, who earned respect across the benches in Parliament for her work and was until recently considered one of the rising Labour stars.

The three Conservative defectors, however, cited Brexit as their main reason for leaving.

"The final straw for us has been this government's disastrous handling of Brexit," said Ms Anna Soubry, who was first elected as an

MP in 2010, and has already held junior government posts.

Although they are from different sides of the political spectrum, both women bear the scars of Britain's currently ugly politics.

Labour's Ms Berger, who is Jewish, frequently faces vulgar personal taunts about her religion. A "Zionist rat" is how a Facebook page of Labour supporters referred to her recently.

And the Conservatives' Ms Soubry was recently hounded in the streets of London by a gang of pro-Brexit demonstrators, who branded her a "traitor on the side of Adolf Hitler" because she supports Britain's continued membership of the EU.

It is not surprising, therefore, that all 11 defectors want a broader

realignment of British politics. So although they have adopted the generic "Independent" umbrella title for their group in Parliament, they clearly have higher aspirations.

"My colleagues want to create something that appeals to and involves everyone who feels disenfranchised with politics, and want to change it," said Mr Chuka Umunna, a previously high-flying MP whose family is of Nigerian origins, and who was once seriously touted as a potential Labour leader.

Changing British politics is a tall order. The country's political system – broadly the same as the one operating in Singapore – punishes defectors and makes it very difficult for a brand-new party to establish itself in one electoral cycle.

So although the rebel MPs can continue to sit in Parliament until the next general election – since legally they were elected by their constituents as individuals rather than as a party – chances are high



Newly Independent MPs (front row, from left) Sarah Wollaston, Heidi Allen, Anna Soubry and Joan Ryan; (middle row, from left) Angela Smith, Luciana Berger and Ann Coffey; and (top row, from left) Chris Leslie, Gavin Shaker, Chuka Umunna and Mike Gapes after they resigned from their respective parties this week. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

that their old parties will regain their constituencies at the next elections, and the defectors will have to look for another job.

Still, this rebellion may change the Brexit debate. Pressure is mounting on Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn to swing his party behind a demand for another national referendum on whether the British people really want to leave the EU, now that they know the heavy price such a move entails.

Meanwhile, Conservative defections are whittling down Prime Minister Theresa May's already wafer-thin working parliamentary majority, which is down to a mere eight seats in the 650-seat House of Commons.

And that's bad news for the upcoming crucial votes. Over the next few weeks, MPs will have to decide on whether Britain leaves the EU with no deal – and risks a potential economic meltdown – or

whether it postpones the entire Brexit project for what looks like a considerable period of time.

Even Mrs May is unable to predict the outcome.

And that, in a nutshell, is Britain's main problem: just when the country faces its most fateful decision since World War II, its two main political parties are cracking up from within.

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UK credit rating at risk in no-deal Brexit: Fitch

NEW YORK • Britain may have its AA credit score cut, according to Fitch Ratings, which pointed to increased risks that the country could tumble out of the European Union without an agreement in place.

"Fitch believes a 'no-deal' Brexit would lead to substantial disruption to UK economic and trade prospects, at least in the near term," it said in a statement this week outlining the move to place Britain on rating watch negative.

The decision reflects "heightened uncertainty over the outcome of the Brexit process", it said.

Concern over Britain's economic future has been growing as Prime Minister Theresa May scrambles to get fresh concessions from the EU in order to put a reformed divorce deal to a vote in the House of Commons as soon as next week.

She was dealt a blow on Wednesday with the defection of three high-profile members from her Conservative Party, who will join a group of former Labour politicians who also quit their party.

Fitch said the scope for fundamental renegotiation of the withdrawal agreement appears limited and that for an accord to be approved by Britain ahead of the March 29 Brexit deadline, "the government would need to substantially widen its support".

It notes that while an extension of the Article 50 withdrawal process is possible, that would require the agreement of EU member states. BLOOMBERG

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Concrete steps to deal with child abuse needed: Pope

Vatican holds summit to educate 114 top bishops on handling abuses, paedophilia

VATICAN CITY • Pope Francis yesterday opened a landmark summit at the Vatican on fighting child sex abuse, saying that the world expected “concrete measures” on tackling paedophilia in the Catholic Church.

The pontiff will dedicate the next 3½ days to discussing the church’s response to child abuse by members of the clergy with bishops from around the world.

“The Holy people of God are watching and waiting not for simple and obvious condemnations but concrete and efficient measures,” he said as the summit opened, the first of its kind. “Let us listen to the cry of the young ones who ask us for justice,” he said.

The Pope is aiming to tackle the continuing scandal, which again hit the church last year in various countries, including Chile, Germany and the United States.

The 82-year-old pontiff hopes to raise awareness about the abuse through prayers, speeches, working groups and victim testimonies.

“I ask the Holy Spirit to support us in the following days and help us to transform this evil into an opportunity for awareness and purification,” Pope Francis said. “May the Virgin Mary enlighten us to try to cure the serious wounds caused by the scandal of paedophilia both in children and in believers.”

The summit aims to educate 114 top bishops who will then return home with clear ideas on how to spot and deal with abuse and paedophilia. The task is made difficult by the fact that some churches, in Asia and Africa in particular, deny the problem exists.



Pope Francis praying yesterday during the opening of a global child protection summit, on the sex abuse crisis within the Catholic Church, at the Vatican. Three themes – responsibility, accountability and transparency – form the backbone of the summit. PHOTO: EPA-EFE

“My hope would be that people see this as a turning point,” said American Cardinal Blase Cupich, among the Pope’s trusted allies in the United States and one of the summit’s four organisers.

The church in the US has been shaken by one of the gravest crises in its history, with the defrocking last week by Pope Francis of former cardinal Theodore McCarrick over accusations that he sexually abused a teenager 50 years ago.

“It’s not the end game, no one can ever say that... (but) we’re going to

do everything possible so people are held responsible, accountable and that there is going to be transparency,” Cardinal Cupich said ahead of the meeting.

Three themes – responsibility, accountability and transparency – form the backbone of the summit and will provide its participants with the keys to ensuring child safety, he said.

Maltese Archbishop Charles Scicluna, another of the summit’s organisers, said there are reforms in the pipeline, such as the “tweak-

ing” of certain canon laws.

But the suggestion that church laws need only fine-tuning has angered many, including Ms Anne Barrett Doyle, the co-director of Bishop-Accountability.org, a public database that documents cases of proven or suspected cleric sex crimes. “Canon law has to be changed: not tweaked, not modified, but fundamentally changed, so that it stops prioritising the priesthood... over the lives of children, and vulnerable adults who are sexually assaulted by them,” she said.

Archbishop Scicluna insists that summoning church leaders from all continents to Rome “is in itself a very important message”.

The Maltese spent 10 years as the Vatican’s top prosecutor on paedophilia cases, and was picked by Pope Francis to travel to Chile last year to hear from victims whose voices had previously been silenced by an internal church cover-up. He has called for an end to the code of silence and culture of denial within the beleaguered institution. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Trump bars return of woman who joined ISIS



Ms Hoda Muthana left her US home in 2014 to marry an ISIS fighter in Syria. She and her son are now in a refugee camp.

WASHINGTON • President Donald Trump has said an Alabama woman who joined the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) will not be allowed back into the US.

Ms Hoda Muthana, 24, left her home in Alabama in 2014 to marry an ISIS fighter in Syria. She now lives with her young son in a Syrian refugee camp.

“I have instructed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and he fully agrees, not to allow Hoda Muthana back into the country!” Mr Trump tweeted on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Mr Pompeo said in a statement that Ms Muthana “is not a US citizen and will not be admitted into the United States”.

“We continue to strongly advise all US citizens not to travel to Syria,” he added.

In an interview with The Guardian, published on Sunday, Ms Muthana said she regretted her decision to join ISIS and was seeking to return to the US.

“I look back now and I think I was very arrogant. Now I’m worried about my son’s future,” she said, describing herself as having been “brainwashed”.

Ms Muthana’s lawyer, Mr Hassan Shibly, told The Washington Post on Wednesday that his client is “genuinely remorseful” about her decision.

“I don’t know if there are many Americans right now who hate ISIS as much as Hoda does,” Mr Shibly said.

Mr Trump’s tweet about the case comes during the same week that another woman who joined ISIS, Ms Shamima Begum, had her British citizenship revoked.

Britain’s Home Office reportedly felt that Ms Begum, whose mother is believed to be Bangladeshi, was entitled to claim citizenship in Bangladesh – a claim disputed by the country.

“Bangladesh asserts that Ms Shamima Begum is not a Bangladeshi citizen. She is a British citizen by birth and has never applied for dual nationality with Bangladesh,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Ms Muthana’s case is complicated by whether she was ever a US citizen in the first place.

Her father was a Yemeni diplomat at the United Nations, and children born in the US to active diplomats are not bestowed birthright citizenship, since such persons are under the jurisdiction of their home countries.

But Mr Shibly said Ms Muthana’s father served as a diplomat only until Sept 1, 1994, one month before Ms Muthana was born in Hackensack, New Jersey, in October 1994.

She previously held a passport and is a US citizen, Mr Shibly said, accusing the Trump administration of attempting to “wrongfully strip citizens of their citizenship”.

He said he would be taking legal action on behalf of Ms Muthana in the coming days.

Ms Muthana recently wrote a letter to her family in which she described how her experience in Syria had changed her.

“In my quiet moments, in between bombings, starvation, cold and fear, I would look at my beautiful little boy and know that I didn’t belong here and neither did he,” she said in the handwritten letter, a copy of which was provided by Mr Shibly.

“I would think sometimes of my family, my friends, and the life that I knew and I realised how I didn’t appreciate or maybe even really understand how important the freedoms that we have in America are. I do now.”

WASHINGTON POST, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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A cache of guns and ammunition was found in the home of Christopher Paul Hasson (below) in Silver Spring, Maryland. PHOTO: REUTERS

US Coast Guard man wanted to kill ‘every last person on earth’



NEW YORK • A United States Coast Guard lieutenant and self-described white nationalist who was arrested in Maryland was plotting to kill a long list of prominent journalists and Democratic politicians, as well as professors, judges and what he called “leftists in general”.

Christopher Paul Hasson, 49, was arrested last Friday on charges of illegal gun possession, but federal prosecutors said in a filing on Tuesday that the charges were just the “proverbial tip of the iceberg”.

The filing, which argues that Hasson should be held until he is tried, describes him as a “domestic terrorist” who intended “to murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country”.

Prosecutors quoted a letter that Hasson drafted to friends in 2017 and that the authorities found on his computer. In it, Hasson, who works as an acquisitions officer at the US Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, wrote: “I am dreaming of a way to kill almost every last person on the earth.”

“I think a plague would be most successful, but how do I acquire the needed/Spanish flu, botulism, anthrax not sure yet...”

In the past month, prosecutors said, the lieutenant drew up a list of prominent figures he called “traitors” and wanted to kill, including well-known anchors and hosts on the CNN and MSNBC news net-

works and a number of Democratic elected officials. The list included House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Democratic representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Maxine Waters, Senator Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat, whom Hasson referred to as “Sen blumen jew”, and many of the senators running for president in 2020.

He had recently trawled the Internet seeking information on whether senators and Supreme Court justices receive Secret Service protection, the court filing said.

In the letter quoted by prosecutors, Hasson wrote about wanting to start a race war, and pondered the best way to do it. “Much blood will have to be spilled to get whitey off the couch,” he wrote.

He also mused about taking advantage of some already tense issue, like the stand-off in 2016 between Oregon protesters and the Bureau of Land Management.

Coast Guard spokesman Scott McBride has confirmed that one of its service members stationed at the headquarters in Washington had been arrested.

Investigators said Hasson began stockpiling weapons in 2017. When federal agents searched his cramped apartment in Maryland, they said, they found a cache of 15 assault rifles, shotguns and handguns and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition. NYTIMES

THE STRAITS TIMES

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The Straits Times says

Now to secure the new digital frontier

In a significant upgrade of its national security vision, Singapore will introduce digital defence as the sixth pillar of its Total Defence framework. The move represents a substantial addition to the security calculus whose trajectory has helped ensure the country's security, unity and independence. Indeed, its singularity is emphasised by the fact that this is the first time that a new pillar has been added to the framework which launched 35 years ago. In a move that should also buttress the sixth pillar, the Ministry of Defence is on a recruitment drive for cyber-security specialists.

The five original pillars of Total Defence are comprehensive: military defence is meant to defend Singapore when it is attacked or to deter for-

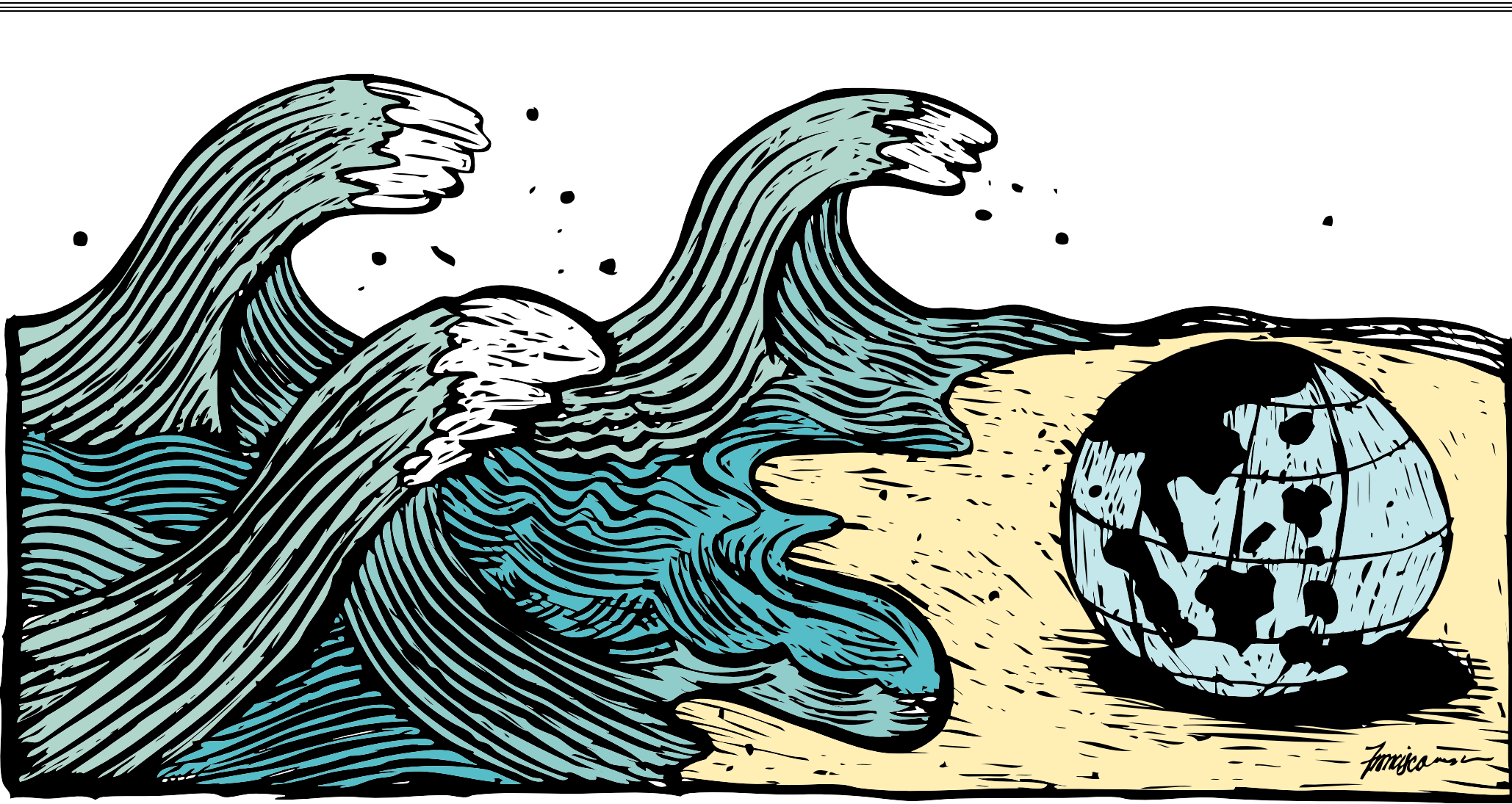
eign intervention; civil defence involves taking care of family, friends and other people in times of crisis; economic defence focuses on the need to create an economy that is robust enough to sustain Singapore through challenges and national emergencies; social defence seeks to enlarge the space of harmony among people of all races and religions; and psychological defence underscores the importance of the willed resilience of Singaporeans that is crucial in overcoming a crisis.

But clearly, the need for digital defence today is as compelling as these efforts to buttress Singapore's security and well-being. And while the Ministry of Defence's recruitment move is timely, the threats in today's world go beyond military action

into the online sphere and involve national concerns in the digital sphere. Globally, there are concerted and often coordinated attempts, notably by state actors, to use disinformation to influence people's thinking and actions through the placement and broadcast of carefully packaged fake news. There are also attempts to hack into national, parliamentary and party political computer systems. Singapore's experience of digital breaches has been telling. It is highlighted by last year's cyber attack on SingHealth which compromised the personal information of 1.5 million patients, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and the recent leak of details from the HIV Registry. Malicious malware and fake news might

not appear to be hard threats like invasion or terrorism, but their effects can be as deadly.

Digital attacks can cripple entire systems while fake news can cause distrust and riots. The first step towards security lies therefore in public awareness of the reality of digital vulnerability. As with the traditional pillars of Total Defence, which involve the public playing their part, the latest pillar will be strong only to the extent that ordinary Singaporeans take it seriously. Members of the public must play their part in distinguishing between what is real and what is fake information so as to decide what to pass on to others via e-mail or phone messages. Since disinformation can be lethal, every citizen is a soldier in the digital war.



SpeakingOfAsia

Asia and the three tsunamis

Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat's Budget statement offers useful pointers for others in the region on meeting the challenges posed by the forces of change



Ravi Velloor

Associate Editor

A decade ago as the Global Financial Crisis raged and Mr Heng Swee Keat was managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the country's central bank, I wrote in these columns that Mr Heng performed a dual role: watchdog and watch tower for the local economy.

The watchdog kept a weather eye on what happened inside the nation's banks and businesses; the watch tower had its attention on the near and far horizons.

These days, as finance minister, he has a third role to play of course – as the gardener who nourishes the economy, particularly its greenest shoots – which explains the considerable time he spent on issues such as Singapore's expanding ecosystem of start-up

companies in the Budget he presented on Monday.

However, it was the sweep of the watch tower part of the Budget speech that I spent considerable time rereading.

It is perhaps a speech government leaders around the region might benefit from studying as well. More so since its author is widely mentioned as the nation's next prime minister and himself described the Budget document as a "strategic plan" for Singapore's future directions.

Broadly put, my weather-sensitive mind thought Mr Heng was flagging to Singaporeans what I described in a Facebook Live discussion as the Three Tsunamis, and the responses he had in mind to each of these, including a confident embrace of the emerging forces of change and a willingness to look them in the eye.

Other nations, particularly those that are still hesitant about making the necessary adjustments, or are in outright denial about their portents, should pause and take note because what the sentinel that's Singapore is picking up applies to the broader region as well. And as the Chinese saying goes, the best time to plant a tree

was 20 years ago; the next best time is now.

AI, AUTOMATION AND JOBS

Tsunami 1 is the gale force changes happening in the economic landscape brought on by the swift march of automation, robotics, artificial intelligence and digitisation.

Six years ago this week, when a lot of these developments were specks on the landscape, I had drawn attention in these columns to the gathering trends and wondered aloud whether the world would need the equivalent of a Non-Proliferation Treaty to calibrate their advance until statesmen and diplomats work out solutions to share the fruits of science rather than live in their dread. Since then, the various tendrils of this phenomenon have gathered into a perfect storm cloud, one that continues to gather force.

The major Asian population centres, starting with China and India, are poised to be the most affected. In the national election looming in India, slow employment generation in the formal sector is rising as a major headache for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he seeks re-election. That phenomenon will only deepen. The import lists of big nations with young populations – take Indonesia and India as prime examples – reveal robotic equipment and automation to be among the fastest-growing items.

Last year, a McKinsey study estimated that a quarter of work

activities in Singapore could be displaced by 2030. Still, the island will probably cope. Last year, almost one in two Singaporeans made some effort to skill up, according to the figures Mr Heng cited.

Its SkillsFuture programme is being studied around the world even if it comes with its own quirks and probably needs fine-tuning.

It would, for instance, be interesting to see how much of those credits were used up for Korean language studies. That said, to the extent that every new language opens up a fresh universe of ideas and thoughts for the learner it is probably a positive thing, even if the initial benefit flows towards the propagation of Korean hallyu.

Later this year, we will have a better sense of direction after the Tripartite Workgroup gives its recommendations on retirement and re-employment, and pension payments of older workers.

AGEING POPULATION

Tsunami 2 is the silver tsunami – rapidly ageing populations in parts of Asia, including at home, that bear close watching.

Singapore's population is ageing faster than even Japan's and this comes with profound implications. Meanwhile, life expectancy today is almost 85 years. The happy news is that quite unlike the Japanese minister who urged the old in his country to "hurry up and die", Singapore has been moving to turn the aged into an asset, including

extending retirement ages.

Some years ago I moderated a World Economic Forum panel on healthcare where Health Minister Gan Kim Yong spoke strongly and convincingly about how Singapore was planning for active ageing. This week, a top executive of Mercer suggested to me that the island should consider a retirement age of 70.

Contemporary research indicates that in the world of robotics and Artificial Intelligence, experience, emotional quotient and other skills that reside in the older generation will find increasing salience in business.

But if Singapore has started the journey to tackle this surge that cannot be said for the rest of Asia.

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Unescap), all Asia-Pacific countries are ageing at an unprecedented pace, although the timing and pace of this transition varies across the region.

Whereas in 2016, approximately 12.4 per cent of the population in the region was 60 years or older, this is projected to increase to more than a quarter – or 1.3 billion – people by 2050. In countries with significant ageing populations, such as Japan and South Korea, over a third of the population is expected to be 60 years or older by 2050.

France and Sweden took 115 years and 85 years respectively to move from an ageing to an aged society, whereas China is expected to make the transition in 25 years, Singapore

and Thailand in 22 years, and Vietnam in only 19 years, according to Unescap projections.

Naturally, all of this has profound implications for healthcare and long-term care.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The third tsunami is natural disasters, including actual tsunamis.

These have been occurring around Asia with increasing frequency and intensity, some without doubt the result of climate change whose manifestations include warming temperatures and rising sea levels.

The people of South-east Asia are highly vulnerable given their exposure to climate change risks, according to the Asian Development Bank. Vietnam, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand were among 10 countries in the world most affected by climate change in the past 20 years.

This vulnerability will only rise as populations increase. Between 2007 and 2016, disasters triggered by natural hazards in the Asia-Pacific region were estimated to have cost damage worth US\$76 billion (S\$103 billion) a year, twice the cost in the decade before. Thirty years from now, the region is projected to be home to 760 million people, mostly living in low-level, coastal areas.

The largest South-east Asian nation, Indonesia, has the world's second longest coastline and six in 10 people there are at risk of being exposed to floods and sea level surges. Fishing, agriculture and tourism – to name just three industries – will all be hit. Asian megapolises such as Shanghai and Mumbai are located in low-lying areas and will not escape the effects of rising sea levels.

Singapore is adopting a multi-pronged approach in meeting the challenges posed by climate change. To meet the threat of rising sea levels, it is experimenting with the use of polders and dikes on Pulau Tekong. Low-lying roads near coastal areas have been raised and Changi Airport's Terminal 5 will be built at 5.5m above sea level. That is about a half-metre higher than the terminals built before.

From 2011, the Government has required all new reclaimed land to be at least 4m higher than the mean sea level, up from 3m previously. Much of Singapore's coastline is protected with hard structures such as seawalls and rock slopes.

Mr Heng, of course, would be the last person to suggest that he was preaching to wider Asia when he flagged these issues in his Budget statement intended for Singaporeans.

Indeed, rather than be seen as some oracular Merlion rising triumphantly in Asian waters, his instinct, if you were to read the text closely, is to tell Singaporeans to emulate the sharp-witted and swift Sang Kancil mousedeer, and I would add, rather than to be stags with prickly antlers. Combined with his call to build cross cultural literacy among our youth, his approach should hopefully help carry his message of the Three Tsunamis beyond this island.

After all, when it comes to climate issues and even megatrends, we are all affected. There is no "over there". And no piece of land, even if surrounded by water, can truly be considered an island.

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Budget 2019

Merdeka Generation Package: Time to move beyond one-time ‘packages’

Teo You Yenn

For The Straits Times

The emergence of the Merdeka Generation Package (MGP) a few years after the Pioneer Generation Package (PGP) has prompted questions from analysts, such as Dr Jeremy Lim (Pioneer, Merdeka Generation Packages: Gig-economy generation may need more help, published in The Straits Times, Feb 21), about the efficiency and fairness of a cohort-by-cohort rather than unified approach to healthcare.

Building on this, we can see implications for the more fundamental question of how to organise the use of public resources to meet needs and level inequalities. People naturally begin to imagine a third package, or a fourth, or more, for subsequent cohorts, but what principles would govern these measures?

Every public policy reflects an underlying theory about how the world works, whether that theory is expressly stated or implied in the shape of the policy. These theories should be based on empirical evidence.

When the PGP was introduced in 2014, the underlying theory was that there were especially acute unmet needs in the cohorts born before 1950, because they were born and came of age in a Singapore much poorer than today's Singapore. The systems set up for meeting needs, particularly as one ages – in public housing, healthcare or the Central Provident Fund – were evolving as this cohort moved through their life course and

therefore they were not equipped to enjoy the full benefits of Singapore's rapid economic rise.

The underlying theory about inequality embedded in the PGP is that a major inequality in society is between the Pioneer Generation and everyone younger. The PGP was meant as a one-time historical correction to level those differences.

The theory was right to some extent. The PGP made a major difference not just to those who directly benefited, but also to their children and grandchildren, who had some financial burdens relieved by public resources.

But the emergence of the MGP suggests that the theory was also off the mark in important ways. The MGP, for yet another cohort of Singaporeans entering into retirement age, signals persistent unmet needs that mass education, near-universal housing ownership, and mandatory savings from wages, did not once and for all resolve for everyone.

Many older persons among the so-called Merdeka Generation (those born in the 1950s, who would be in their 60s today) still have needs for income and healthcare which require public resources to support. This important empirical observation requires a shift in the theory: Inequalities in meeting needs are not only along historical-cohort lines. The systems in place for retirement are not in fact adequately meeting everyone's needs. It follows that we require a more systematic and durable solution than another one-time fix aimed crudely at a single age cohort.

Given the evidence, which the Government itself acknowledges by introducing the MGP,



Many older persons among the so-called Merdeka Generation (those born in the 1950s, who are in their 60s today) still have needs for income and healthcare which require public resources to support, the writer says. ST PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI

continuing to make adjustments cohort by cohort is inefficient and short-sighted.

Income and wealth inequalities – including differences in savings to finance retirement and healthcare needs – have widened in the past few decades, manifesting within rather than just across age cohorts. Thus, the theory that justified a one-time adjustment is increasingly tenuous. More systemic fixes are necessary to ensure that everyone's needs are met, and that all generations have some security.

Those of us now at younger ages – particularly those in precarious and low-wage work with limited capacities to save – cannot live with our necks strained, wondering if there'll also be a package with our names on it when our time comes.

Economic development is not in

fact in a single smooth line upwards. Every cohort is exposed to risks in different ways – whether due to global financial crises or technological disruptions.

As Dr Lim has also noted, the current cohort of working-age adults is vulnerable to disruptions of occupation and career in ways that previous cohorts were not. When their time to retire arrives, they too may need additional support than what our welfare infrastructure currently affords. Are policymakers to make various one-time adjustments by a historical reading of such impacts? Who gets to decide which merit state intervention and which do not? This seems both highly inefficient and overly arbitrary.

Most importantly, cohort-specific adjustments risk undermining the ethos of building

an inclusive society where everyone should have dignified lives, and where members of society cultivate mutual obligations to support one another.

Introducing one-off, cohort-based rewards is, arguably, not a principled, sustainable, or solidarity-enhancing way to protect people in retirement. There is an opportunity now to institutionalise a set of welfare principles based on the meeting of basic needs, and introduce practices to measure needs and set benchmarks – and to make these constant and predictable – so that all future cohorts of Singaporeans may enjoy peace of mind and a sense of security regardless of unpredictable risks. If we're in it together, we should not be constantly jostling to mark who is more or less deserving.

Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat's Budget speech underscored the world's increasing volatility, where the future of work will not look like the past. Our rapidly ageing society also implies that the future of our populace will look different from its past and present.

The need for an MGP is a sign to rethink the theory that current systems are working as they should and need not be fundamentally fixed. Singapore is currently in a good financial position to make bold moves to address these challenges so that we are indeed future-ready.

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The MGP, for yet another cohort of Singaporeans entering into retirement age, signals persistent unmet needs that mass education, near-universal housing ownership, and mandatory savings from wages, did not once and for all resolve for everyone... The systems in place for retirement are not in fact adequately meeting everyone's needs. It follows that we require a more systematic and durable solution than another one-time fix aimed crudely at a single age cohort.

Home Team Science and Technology Agency: An agency of the future

Antonio L. Rappa

For The Straits Times

The proposal that the Home Team will set up its own Science and Technology Agency is a timely one that will boost capabilities across the security agencies.

Right now, there is a Home Team Academy (HTA), a training institute made up of basic instructional and training schools for officers from various agencies, such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), the Singapore Prisons' Service, the Central Narcotics Bureau and the Internal Security Department. Supplementing this training, there are also undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Management and Security Studies from the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).

The move to set up a dedicated Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HSTA) to beef up science and tech capabilities for the Home Team is certainly timely, given the rising level of global threats posed by terrorism, cyber attacks and transnational crime. Announcing the setting up of the new agency by the end of the year, Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat in his Budget 2019 speech said it "will develop science and technology capabilities to support the Home Team's operational needs".

Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam has also said several times that there would be significant budget increases for national security and counterterrorism.

This is apt, for not only is the threat level rising, but the cost of counter-terrorist training and preparedness is also escalating. This is due to the higher costs of training equipment and advanced technologies involved, as well as the rise in wages and remuneration for security troopers.

At the SUSS management and security courses that I teach and coordinate, for example, students



Some of the new technologies being explored by the Singapore Civil Defence Force include the pumper firefighting machine (above). The writer notes that the cost of counter-terrorist training and preparedness is rising, due in part to the higher costs of training equipment and advanced technologies involved. ST FILE PHOTO

acquire knowledge about various kinds of security technology, including advanced courses in information and Internet security.

Home Team agencies are already experimenting with and using sophisticated techniques in their work, including the use of analytics in the prisons service, and the use of virtual reality technology to take realistic training scenarios to the frontline. This is done through MobiC, a mobile classroom using a vehicular platform. Home Team psychologists meanwhile are

researching the use of social media by violent extremists.

The range of issues dealt with by Home Team officers is diverse; and the skill sets of officers must also rise in tandem with the complexity of the threats.

Here, it is worthwhile to look at how defence has benefited from the setting up of the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), a statutory board under the Ministry of Defence set up in 2000.

The military sector has produced

innovative variants for military security across the three branches of the Singapore Armed Forces.

One such innovation is the use of third-generation scopes for weapons and small arms; while another one is the use of enhanced databases and real-time cameras for updating commanders in the field of operations.

Another innovation from DSTA is the use of the latest drone technology based on training exercises overseas in places such as

Afghanistan, Australia and New Zealand, according to official social media.

The Home Team too is quick to adopt such technologies. Similar advanced technology is used in the SPF for new body-cameras. Officers involved in investigating crime can now access the most updated information anywhere in the region. The Police Force is reportedly considering new infrared technology which has been used in a limited fashion for the Police Coast Guard units.

While Home Team officers do share some similarities with Defence Force officers, it is also clear that their different security functions and specialist nature of work require a different range of advanced technologies.

This is where a dedicated science and tech agency for the Home Team can raise capabilities for the security sector.

To be sure, Singapore's Home Team agencies already operate at a high level of effectiveness. Current capabilities are strong in areas such as internal security, intelligence analyses, criminology, and forensic investigations.

The new HSTA can build up capabilities in emerging technologies, especially those on the digital front. After all, Digital Defence is being added as the sixth prong of Singapore's Total Defence strategy (the other five are civil, economic, military, and social and psychological defence).

This recognises the real, pervasive threat posed by cyber attacks, which Singapore has already fallen prey to – seen in the hack on SingHealth databases and the leak of HIV-related data.

This year, 30 per cent of total government expenditure goes towards security and diplomacy. This may need to rise in future; indeed, Mr Heng said more will be committed if needed.

In a sign of the urgency of the need, job advertisements have already popped up for the positions of assistant directors and senior assistant directors (international) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, with a special focus on building partnerships in science and technology to support the Home Team's work – clearly preparations for the setting up of the HSTA.

Given the fast and intense build-up of security threats, a sense of urgency is exactly what is needed.

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Is the future of ISIS female?

Women are playing an increasingly important role – and security forces are not prepared

Vera Mironova

MOSUL (Iraq) • Sitting in a room in a burnt-out house here in 2017, a group of Iraqi Special Operations Forces soldiers and I watched with surprise as two Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) fighters appeared on the live video feed of a security camera. The two fighters were preparing to fire a rocket-propelled grenade in our direction. But instead of the usual bearded men with long hair, the fighters, clad in black abayas and niqabs, appeared to be women.

As it has lost power and land over the past year and a half or so, ISIS has quietly shifted from insistence on a strict gender hierarchy to allowing, even celebrating, female participation in military roles.

It is impossible to quantify just how many women are fighting for the group. Still, interviews with police forces in Mosul suggest they have become a regular presence that no longer surprises, as it did two years ago.

“After ISIS fell in Mosul, we were worried about ISIS females more and more,” Mosul’s mayor, Mr Zuhair Muhsin Mohammed al-Araji, told me this month.

ISIS propaganda over the past few years has hinted at and laid the groundwork for this change: In October 2017, the movement’s newspaper called on women to prepare for battle; by early last year, the group was openly praising its female fighters in a video that showed a woman wielding an AK-47, the narration describing “the chaste mujahed woman journeying to her Lord with the garments of purity and faith, seeking revenge for her religion and



A picture posted on Twitter by an ISIS-affiliated social media account purportedly shows members of an armed, all-female militia. After it lost power, ISIS has quietly shifted from a strict gender hierarchy to allowing – and even celebrating – female participation in military roles, the writer says.

for the honour of her sisters”.

And if by some measures, the rise of women as combatants represents a significant shift in a group notorious for its strict gender roles and misogyny – in the caliphate, men were supposed to fight, while women were supposed to stay home and raise as many children as possible – by other measures, the change is not as startling as it seems.

The women once married to ISIS militants who are now seeking to return to the West may claim to have simply been housewives, but from the beginnings of the group, some women were more radical than their husbands.

One former fighter from Dagestan told me he knew of women insisting that their husband or sons join the terrorist group. He also knew of women who did not want to marry anyone other than front-line fighters because “they wanted to be a true mujahedeen family”.

For other women, their willingness to participate is driven by revenge, need or both.

The devastating battle for Mosul was followed by a post-liberation rampage by Iraqi security forces who harassed and raped women and looted their homes; many ISIS widows are now willingly helping the insurgency just to get back at the government, people I have interviewed in refugee camps say.

There are also many widows who, left without incomes and living in terrible conditions in refugee camps, feel they have no other choice but to work for the group so their family can survive.

Although ISIS propaganda bills the change as “a campaign that commences a new era of conquest”, the move to allow female combatants is born out of desperation. The group has lost essentially all its territory. Most of its male fighters have been killed, wounded or arrested, according to

Judge Raid Hamid, chief investigative judge at the Mosul terrorism court.

But an increasing number of voices have warned that the movement has the potential to be even more dangerous as an insurgency. And it is in this form that the rise of women as combatants as well as covert operatives gives the group an edge.

When ISIS controlled huge areas, it had a well-defined military of men in uniforms. But for an organisation that increasingly needs to prioritise stealth, female operatives are a valuable weapon.

After the fall of Mosul, for example, the forces I embedded with often saw women walking through the debris with food and water – an act that would have raised suspicions among the police had they been men, but which women could more frequently get away with.

As a result, militants who might otherwise have been forced out of hiding were perhaps able to stay alive. And some government security forces aren’t always prepared to address these changes in the ISIS demographics.

While there are women among the forces fighting ISIS in Syria, there are none in combat roles in the army and Special Operations Forces in Iraq.

Their absence became a security issue during the operation to retake Mosul: While soldiers in the unit I was embedded with typically patted down the men coming from ISIS-controlled neighbourhoods and checked them for weapons or explosives as they surrendered, the soldiers were not willing to touch the women.

That this made them more dangerous than the men was widely understood, said Mr Hussain Mahmoud, a colonel in the federal police. And it was women

who were responsible for many of the suicide bombings that took place almost daily at Iraqi army positions during the Mosul operation, according to Lieutenant General Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi, one of the leaders of Iraq’s efforts against ISIS.

Mr al-Araji, the Mosul mayor, said that police forces, who today provide most of the security for the city, are working on plans to recruit more female officers, and to add closed rooms to checkpoints where women can be searched – but said he is pessimistic about the timeline.

Civilians in Iraq are certainly aware of the new face of ISIS. According to a survey a colleague and I conducted in Mosul in December, 85 per cent of 400 respondents said that in the past, ISIS women were as radical as men and 80 per cent agreed or strongly agreed that they played an important role in the group; 82 per cent said they agreed or strongly agreed that ISIS women will be dangerous for Mosul in the future.

If gender roles in Iraq were previously mostly a human rights concern, now they have also become a security concern.

A group notorious for its misogyny might be considered ahead of the country as a whole when it comes to gender equality among its fighters, and perhaps, too, in its willingness to see women as fully capable of causing destruction.

Iraq will soon have no choice but to rethink its own ideas about gender roles, security and who can be a threat, if it is to keep itself safe. **NYTIMES**

• Dr Vera Mironova, a visiting fellow at Harvard University studying the human resources of armed groups, was embedded with Iraqi Special Operations Forces for the battle of Mosul.

Iraq and Syria are not an ISIS dumping ground

Faisal Al Yafai

For at least four years now, since the self-declared caliphate of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) began to unravel, governments around the world have begun to reckon with the consequences of returnees.

ISIS managed to attract tens of thousands of fighters from maybe 90 countries and over the years thousands have attempted to return home: Some were disillusioned with what they saw, some remained convinced of their beliefs but wanted to return home, and some, the intelligence services feared, were returning to plot attacks or gain recruits.

Most of the legal, logistical and even moral arguments over what to do with these returnees – not all are fighters; some are spouses, some children and some served ISIS as administrators or cooks – have taken place out of public view, surfacing, as they did this week, only when a high-profile story enters the media.

For days, the British media has been convulsed by the case of Shamima Begum, who as a 15-year-old in 2015 left with two of her school friends to join ISIS. Four years later, Begum, now 19 and a mother, is in a refugee camp in Syria; she is keen to return home but unrepentant about her experience of having joined ISIS and marrying one of its foreign fighters.

Her case has been the subject of endless opinions, ranging from tolerance for the foolish actions of a

teenager, to calls to “let her rot” in the Syrian desert.

And yet throughout all the debate, one aspect rarely discussed is what Syria and Iraq, the two countries devastated most by the self-styled caliphate, think of Europeans being left on their territory. On social media, the answer, albeit crude, is clear: “Europe should pick up its trash.” Countries, in Europe and elsewhere, whose citizens knowingly joined ISIS must take those citizens back. Leaving them to rot on other people’s soil is not an option.

On the whole, there are two perspectives on returnees.

The first is that, having committed crimes in Iraq and Syria, it should be up to Iraqis and Syrians to prosecute and decide their punishment.

The second is that citizens deserve fair trial – especially citizens in countries like those in the European Union whose legal systems privilege the right to that – regardless of their crimes, and since that may not be possible in some of the places they are held, they ought to be repatriated and tried at home.

Both perspectives are complicated by the fact that there is often simply not sufficient evidence from the war zones to secure convictions, either in the Middle East or in the home countries of returnees.

There is also the argument – which so far only the French have advanced – that it is preferable to have the returnees under lock and key in France, where the authorities can be confident of knowing their movements.

Broadly speaking, those who feel

that Begum betrayed her country prefer the first perspective and those who believe Begum’s country of citizenship should bear the burden prefer the second.

But the perspectives that are missing are the Iraqi and Syrian ones.

Iraqis in particular have been rightly resentful that large parts of their country were ravaged and destroyed by foreign fighters. Hundreds of these fighters, as well as their associates and spouses, have passed through Iraq’s courts, sentenced to time in prison or death.

In this way, Iraqis are being asked to bear a double burden: First the cost in blood and destruction of a rampaging army of Europeans, Arabs and Asians; and then, having at considerable personal cost fought that army, the Iraqis then must also bear the cost of detaining, processing and imprisoning the survivors.

Because, after all, the security issues that European and Arab countries are so concerned about with returnees also apply to those on Iraqi soil.

Returnees in jail will cost money and could be the target for hostage negotiations; they could indoctrinate others, or escape and commit attacks. Those possibilities are the reasons their home countries do not want them back. They are also the reason the Iraqis and Syrians do not want them.

The issue of the citizens of other countries not being a burden on Iraq and Syria particularly applies in cases like Begum’s, where there is unlikely to be sufficient evidence to prosecute her – even were the Syrians so inclined, since they are

still in the midst of a civil war and are a divided country.

There is a sometimes-arrogant assumption on the part of commentators that if European countries, in particular, do not want their citizens back, the Middle East can simply be used as a dumping ground.

The fallout from the end of ISIS’ caliphate is raising incredibly difficult legal and moral questions. Issues rarely encountered in transnational justice now suddenly have thousands of real-world examples. There may well be new legal instruments created or new political agreements devised to accommodate the thousands of foreign returnees whose home countries simply do not want them.

The declaration from Britain that it will strip Begum of her citizenship could well fail in the courts, since European law does not allow citizens to be made stateless and it is unclear if Begum has or could acquire any other nationality. In any case, however, it does not solve the problem and merely transfers the burden to Syria.

But until then, it is important to recognise a central fact: Citizenship entails responsibilities and places obligations on states as well as citizens. Those states whose citizens went to destroy a foreign country should make sure to – in perhaps not totally politic language – pick up their trash.

• Faisal Al Yafai is currently writing a book on the Middle East. He is also a frequent commentator on international TV networks such as CNN and BBC. This article was first published by the Syndication Bureau.

Trump-Kim summit

Why US should raise North Korea’s human rights abuses

Victor D. Cha

If Mr Donald Trump’s summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi next week goes as the US President hopes, the two will emerge trumpeting promises of North Korea’s denuclearisation, the proclamation of an end to the Korean War, and commitments by the international business community and multilateral lending institutions to transform the nation led by “Little Rocket Man”, in Mr Trump’s words, into the “economic rocket” of Asia.

While there’s probably a better chance of pigs flying over Pyongyang, it is important to consider the latter prospect for one important but neglected reason: Mr Trump will never realise his dream of seeing North Korea trade its missile launch pads for beachfront condominiums and casinos unless he addresses the regime’s massive human-rights abuses.

Mr Trump’s loudest pronouncements on the North’s horrific human-rights record came in 2017 after the death of Mr Otto Warmbier, a US college student detained during a tourist visit to the country. The President even invited the Warmbier family to the State of the Union speech to highlight the issue.

But, since Mr Trump met Mr Kim in Singapore last summer, he has gone quiet on human rights.

Over two years into his term, Mr Trump still has not appointed an envoy for human-rights abuses in North Korea, a position mandated by Congress.

He seems to think that raising the issue in Hanoi with Mr Kim would be impolite and distract from the question of denuclearisation.

Washington’s silence has had palpable consequences: Five years after a United Nations Commission of Inquiry report created a groundswell of support for charging the North Korean leadership with crimes against humanity, the Security Council last December voted against raising the issue at the behest of China and Russia.

What Mr Trump does not seem to realise is that human rights are critical to his negotiation strategy.

For one thing, stopping North Korea’s bomb-making activities means blocking the hard currency flows that finance them. Much of that money comes from the regime’s slave-labour exports and other abusive business activities.

Second, in order to verify any nuclear deal, inspectors have to be able to move around the country to different sites. That will require a much more open North Korean society than exists today, for which the US should be pressing simultaneously with denuclearisation.

Third, raising human rights can strengthen US leverage in the talks.

Over the past three decades, North Korea has barely cracked a yawn when Washington has condemned its nuclear activities. But, when the international community began shining a spotlight on Pyongyang’s human-rights abuses in 2014, the reclusive regime, feeling vulnerable, quickly dispatched diplomats abroad to lobby against punitive resolutions at the UN.

Fourth, for Mr Trump to integrate human-rights demands into the negotiations would be smart politics at home, given how reluctant Congress will likely be to accept any deal that doesn’t address those issues.

And finally, Mr Trump’s promise of economic betterment for Mr Kim in return for his nuclear bombs simply won’t be credible unless there is tangible progress on human rights.

Current UN Security Council resolutions as well as US laws make it difficult for private-sector companies or international financial institutions to engage economically with North Korea absent certification that the country is in compliance with international labour standards.

Even at Mr Trump’s behest, no general counsel of any US company would recommend investing in North Korea if human rights abuses in the supply chain might put them in violation of US law.

Raising human rights is not just a necessity but an opportunity. Since the Commission of Inquiry report, Pyongyang has quietly become more engaged in humanitarian efforts and information-gathering on human rights standards. This may make the North Koreans more receptive to a dialogue about human rights and international monitoring standards for health and food assistance. But, they aren’t going to raise the issue if the US doesn’t.

For Mr Trump to continue to keep quiet in Hanoi would not just dim America’s traditional role as a beacon of human freedom, but make the task of denuclearising North Korea that much harder.

BLOOMBERG

• Victor D. Cha is Korea chair at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and a professor at Georgetown University. He previously served as Asia director at the National Security Council.

Raising human rights is not just a necessity but an opportunity. Since the Commission of Inquiry report, Pyongyang has quietly become more engaged in humanitarian efforts and information-gathering on human rights standards. This may make the North Koreans more receptive to a dialogue about human rights and international monitoring standards for health and food assistance. But, they aren’t going to raise the issue if the US doesn’t.

BIG PICTURE



WEATHER

Windy, with passing showers in the afternoon.
High 34 deg C **Low** 24 deg C
24-hr PSI as of 5pm yesterday: 34 to 54 (Moderate)



ST PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

Fresh shine for the Esplanade

Workers braved the heights to perform maintenance work on the spiked roof of the Esplanade on Wednesday. The iconic Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, fondly known as "the Durian" due to the tri-

angular sunshade cladding on its two domes that vaguely resemble durian husks, is turning 17 this year. The venue officially opened on Oct 12, 2002, and boasts a concert hall and a theatre that seat just under

2,000, a recital studio and a theatre studio that seat about 200, as well as other amenities, including restaurants and a performing arts library. According to its website, the venue presents about 3,000 shows yearly.

By 2021, a \$30 million waterfront theatre is slated to open at the Esplanade. The 550-seat venue will give arts groups a much-needed mid-sized space to stage new works.

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Felix Cheong has published 13 books across different genres, from poetry to short stories. A recipient of the Young Artist award, he has worked in the media industry for more than 20 years. He holds a master's degree in creative writing and currently teaches journalism at the University of Newcastle and Murdoch University.



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NUMBER OF PERSONAL MOBILITY DEVICES FROM TELEPOD AND NEURON MOBILITY IMPOUNDED AS OF FEB 14 B2

Parents call for regulation of school-bus fares, services



On average, it will cost a family at least \$945 a year for a one-way, school-bus arrangement per child and at least \$1,134 for the two-way deal. School-bus firms require families to pay for a 12-month service even though school terms last nine months. ST PHOTO: ALPHONSUS CHERN

Main complaints are high fees, companies' unwillingness to serve outside coverage areas

Irene Tham

When her second child entered Primary 1 this year, Ms Sandy Kang, 40, decided it was time to take her nine-year-old son out of the school-bus system.

Although their home in Hougang is just over 2km from Holy Innocents' Primary, where the children are enrolled, the monthly fee charged by the private school-bus services provider is \$145 for a one-way trip, for each child.

"The amount doubles with my daughter entering Primary 1 this year, which is hefty, considering we live just three bus stops away," said

Ms Kang, who works in the medical industry as a customer engagement manager.

Since the beginning of the year, her husband has been driving the children to school. The maid then takes them home later in the day using public transport.

The issue has been a sticking point for parents, especially when such service providers significantly raise rates.

Last December, Revolving Transport – a bus operator newly engaged by Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS) to ferry its pupils to and from school – quoted \$550 a

WHAT GOVT SAYS continued on B2

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Stronger inter-agency links will deliver more support: Masagos

Minister says collaboration can deliver integrated support, urges community to also help the vulnerable

Vanessa Liu

Better coordination across agencies will deliver more support to vulnerable families, said Mr Masagos Zulkifli yesterday.

The Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs told a seminar at the Carlton Hotel that strong families are the building blocks of a successful community.

He added that agencies must leverage one another's efforts, and work across agency lines, to deliver help in an integrated manner.

Mr Masagos cited the M³ joint of-

fice – comprising the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, self-help group Mendaki, and the People's Association Malay Activity Executive Committees Council – which began operations last month.

The office provides a place where the Malay/Muslim community can get the help and services offered by the three agencies under one roof, while serving as a centre of collaboration with other community organisations, he said.

The need for collaboration was also underlined by Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of So-

cial and Family Development.

He spoke at the event about the need for agencies to work in tandem when helping at-risk families facing complex challenges address their issues.

The event was attended by about 250 representatives from Malay-Muslim organisations, voluntary welfare groups and government bodies.

Mr Masagos also emphasised the importance of upstream work and early intervention so that potential problems can be identified before they arise, and families can be set “on a virtuous cycle”.

He pointed to Inspirasi hubs, where marriage preparation and enrichment services are run by the Singapore Muslim Women's Association and the AMP.

SOCIETY HAS A PART TO PLAY

Supporting the vulnerable among us requires a whole-of-society approach. We need the community and every Singaporean to play their part, looking out for one another, sharing resources, and offering their time and skills to help the less privileged amongst us.



MR MASAGOS ZULKIFLI, Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs

The two groups support couples who marry young and start their marriage with limited resources, by referring them to help schemes, and child-care and employment assistance.

Other programmes that help these young couples include support groups and workshops on planning for home ownership, and skills training to generate income.

Mr Masagos said families that require the most support are those that face multiple issues at major life transitions, such as marriage, parenthood and caring for the elderly.

“These challenges are compounded when families do not have a stable income, or experience abuse, addictions or poor health. Such social issues are complex and multi-faceted,” he added.

Mr Masagos also urged everyone in the community to play a part in helping individuals or families in need. “Supporting the vulnerable among us requires a whole-of-society approach.”

“We need the community and every Singaporean to play their part, looking out for one another, sharing resources, and offering their time and skills to help the less privileged amongst us.”

liuxyv@sph.com.sg

MOE will not intervene in how school-bus firms set fares

FROM B1

month for its two-way transport service.

It was almost double what the previous bus contractor charged, and hit those living far from the school in Dunearn Road – such as in Punggol, Yishun, Sengkang and Bedok – the hardest.

Revolving Transport reduced its rates only when the school intervened. Those living in Punggol now pay \$350 a month, with SCSG also providing subsidies of up to \$75 for those most affected by the fare hikes.

On average, monthly rates charged by private school-bus operators start at \$105 for a one-way service, and \$126 for the two-way option. But these cover only a 2km radius from the school.

This is based on self-reported figures of 127 primary schools found on their websites and on the Ministry of Education's (MOE) information notice board for school-bus services.

It will cost a family at least \$945 a year for the one-way arrangement and at least \$1,134 for the two-way deal. School-bus firms require families to pay for a 12-month service even though school terms last nine months.

However, the cost also increases according to the distance travelled and bus type. A route with lower demand can result in an additional \$15 one way for a 15- to 30-seater bus, or \$27 for a bus with fewer than 15 seats. And every additional kilometre covered requires a top-up of \$18 for a one-way trip.

So pupils who are picked up within 2km of the school, on a bus with fewer than 15 seats, will pay \$130 a month on average over nine months, or \$1,170 a year for a nine-month term.

But parents say it is not just about the rates.

They say private school-bus operators have rejected bookings outside of their coverage areas and many schools also appoint only one bus operator, for ease of administration.

This means only the appointed bus operator can enter the school while the others have to secure permission.

Housewife Honey Tan, 47, said: “Those who live the furthest away from school are the ones who need the school bus the most. To ensure that they are not overcharged, bus fares must be regulated.”

Parents argue that regulated fares would ensure a high take-up rate for the school bus, which will, in turn, generate more economies of scale and cheaper fares.

However, MOE said it will not interfere with bus fares, as regulation would dissuade private bus operators from offering their services.

“Unlike public transport where a few big operators run sizeable bundles of heavy and sparse routes, the school-bus industry comprises numerous small, private operators,” said Mrs Choo Lee See, MOE's divisional director for infrastructure and facilities services.

School-bus operators determine fares based on several operating considerations, such as distance of routes, capacity of buses and the number of pupils on that route, she said.

“Hence, the cost of serving a few students staying a distance away from the school can be quite high on a per student basis, which then translates into higher fares.”

itham@sph.com.sg

Varying costs of a ride

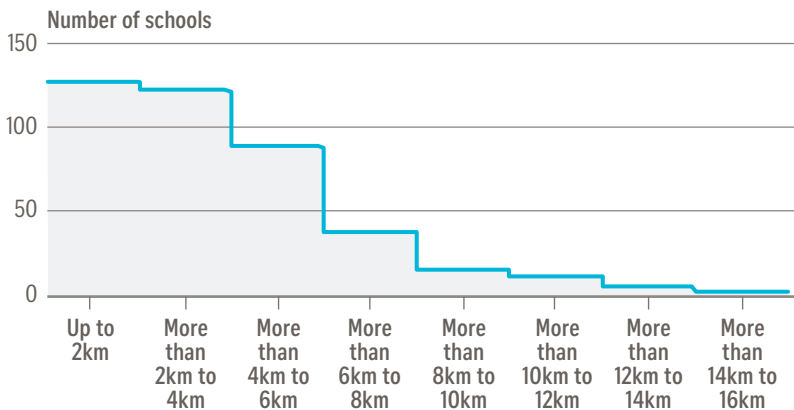
The most expensive bus-fare quotes

Holy Innocents' Primary	\$170 - \$700
CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity	\$212.50 - \$700
Townsville Primary	\$226 - \$346
Westwood Primary	\$115 - \$410
Rosyth	\$170 - \$400
Anderson Primary	\$140 - \$320

The cheapest bus-fare quotes

Bukit Panjang Primary	\$70 - \$130
Peiying Primary	\$75 - \$180
South View Primary	\$65 - \$150
Clementi Primary	\$60 - \$250
Xingnan Primary	\$90 - \$120

School-bus operators' willingness to take bookings drops significantly for distances more than 6km away from the school:



Sources: WEBSITES OF 127 PRIMARY SCHOOLS, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S INFORMATION NOTICE BOARD FOR SCHOOL-BUS SERVICES, STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

REGULATE BUS FARES

Those who live the furthest away from school are the ones who need the school bus the most. To ensure that they are not overcharged, bus fares must be regulated.



HOUSEWIFE HONEY TAN, 47

MANY SMALL OPERATORS

Unlike public transport where a few big operators run sizeable bundles of heavy and sparse routes, the school-bus industry comprises numerous small, private operators.



MRS CHOO LEE SEE, the Education Ministry's divisional director for infrastructure and facilities services, on the ministry not interfering with bus fares as regulation would dissuade private bus operators from offering their services.



Telepod has been charged in court under the Parking Places Act, which prohibits PMDs from being offered for hire on public land without a licence or an exemption from the transport minister. Neuron Mobility will be charged at a later date for the same offence. PHOTO: LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

Two start-ups in trouble for illegally offering shared PMDs

Zhaki Abdullah

Two local personal mobility device (PMD) sharing start-ups have run into trouble with the authorities, while awaiting approval for a licence to operate their services in Singapore.

Yesterday, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) said that as of Feb 14, it had impounded 68 PMDs from Telepod and another 131 such devices from Neuron Mobility. The devices had been illegally made available for hire in public places.

Telepod has been charged in court under the Parking Places Act, which prohibits PMDs from being offered for hire on public land without a licence or an exemption from the transport minister.

Unlicensed operators can be fined up to \$10,000 and jailed for up to six months, with a further fine of \$500 for each day they continue to operate after conviction.

Repeated written warnings had been issued to Telepod, the authority said.

Telepod has said it will lodge an appeal to the LTA.

Investigations into Neuron Mobility have also been completed, the

LTA said, adding that the firm will be charged in court at a later date for the same offence.

Earlier this month, Telepod and Neuron Mobility were among the 14 companies that had applied to offer PMD-sharing services in Singapore under the LTA's device-sharing licensing scheme.

The licence caps the number of devices a firm can operate here and requires them to take measures to curb indiscriminate parking.

While both Telepod and Neuron Mobility have been operating in Singapore since 2017, this was under an exemption that allowed their devices to be used without a licence within specific areas under an agreement with land owners.

“LTA would like to remind all operators that when evaluating licence applications, LTA will consider their track record, including their compliance with the law and regulatory requirements,” said the authority.

In November last year, the LTA said it had impounded 42 shared e-scooters – almost all from Telepod and Neuron Mobility – over a four-month period.

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Workplace injuries rise, fewer deaths

Record low 41 workers die on the job in 2018; construction has highest number of fatalities

Toh Ting Wei

More workers sustained non-fatal workplace injuries last year, though the number of those who died on the job edged to a new record low. Forty-one workers died of workplace injuries, one fewer than in the year before. The construction sector remained the top contributor of deaths, with 14 fatal accidents, two more than the year before. Meanwhile, 313 more cases of major and minor injuries were registered, with an area of concern in the pronounced increase in major injuries from slips, trips and falls, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council said yesterday. This increase was seen across various industries, including those traditionally of lower risk. In a statement, the MOM and the council said the trend of declining workplace fatalities had continued

since the Workplace Safety and Health Act was enacted in 2006. The workplace fatal injury rate, which is the number of deaths per 100,000 employees, was 1.2 last year, down from 3.1 in 2006. "The improvements have been achieved through making companies and individuals liable for safety outcomes, rather than observing prescriptive standards, imposing stiffer penalties and extensively engaging and educating industries," said MOM and the WSH Council. The wholesale trade sector and real estate services were flagged for an increased number of fatalities, with five and four cases respectively. MOM and the WSH Council said these two sectors previously had few fatal injuries and called for more vigilance. Falls from height, slips, trips and falls, and vehicle-related incidents remained the top causes of fatal injuries, although the number of incidents involving vehicles fell to

seven, from 14 in 2017. The authorities said the decline was due to continued inspection and engagement efforts. The number of dangerous occurrences, such as explosions or cranes collapsing, decreased by 34 per cent from 2017, while occupational diseases fell by 30 per cent. Nonetheless, Minister of State for Manpower Zaqu Mohamad said the rise in workplace injuries was a cause for concern. "Some businesses may not realise the business benefits that good workplace safety and health can bring, and perceive improving WSH as costing time and money," he said. The MOM conducted more than 4,800 inspections last year and uncovered more than 9,000 workplace safety and health contraventions, and issued 69 stop-work orders. Mr Zaqu said the WSH2028 Tripartite Strategies Committee, which was set up last year, has been studying how to align firms' commercial interests closer with good WSH outcomes. Details will be announced in April. Mr John Ng, chairman of both the WSH Council and the WSH2028 panel, said both bodies will seek to grow a culture of prevention and trust that starts with the top leaders in companies. In a blog post yesterday, MP Melvin Yong, who is National Trades Union Congress assistant secretary-general, called for more emphasis on workplace health, differentiated insurance premiums, a mandatory WSH representative in every firm, and a national WSH academy. He said: "We have done good work in lowering workplace fatalities, particularly in the manufacturing and transport and storage sectors, as well as bringing down the number of vehicle-related fatal accidents. But one worker injured is still one case too many."

Workplace safety and health

The number of workplace fatalities hit a new low last year, but the number of non-fatal injuries increased by more than 300 cases.

	2016	2017	2018
Overall workplace injuries	13,014	12,498	12,810
Fatal	66	42	41
Major	594	574	596
Minor	12,354	11,882	12,173
Dangerous occurrences	45	35	23
Occupational diseases	732	799	563

NOTE: Dangerous occurrences refer to incidents that have high potential to cause death or serious injuries, such as explosions and the collapse of cranes, formwork or scaffolding. Source: MINISTRY OF MANPOWER STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

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In line for a shot at \$13.6m hongbao



People queuing up yesterday at Block 685 Hougang Street 61 for tickets for today's Toto Hong Bao Draw. Today's draw is one of the biggest Toto Hong Bao Draws, at an estimated \$13.6 million. According to the Singapore Pools website, the biggest such draw was on Feb 19, 2016, when \$13.9 million was up for grabs. ST PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

Man admits using ruse to swindle women

Shaffiq Alkhatib

A woman who was cheated of more than \$68,000 in 2016 by her then boyfriend found out last year that she was not his only victim. The man, Malaysian Peter Aw Boo Cheong, 47, admitted to 14 counts of cheating involving nearly \$250,000 on Nov 28 last year. After reading the report about Aw's case in The Straits Times, the 50-year-old Singaporean woman made a police report two days later. Yesterday, Aw, who is jobless, pleaded guilty to three counts of cheating involving \$57,250. The woman was one of his six victims. Police investigations showed that Aw, a Singapore permanent resident, and the woman started a romantic relationship after meeting on dating platform Tinder in 2016. Aw called himself "Daniel" and claimed that he was an experienced silver trader. He told the woman about an "investment opportunity" which he

claimed would reap high profits. Said Deputy Public Prosecutor Tan Hsiao Tien: "In the accused's dealings with the victim, he led her to believe that he was a credible and trustworthy person who had valuable information about investment, and would help her to invest in silver, in her best interests. "In fact, the accused was never a trader and had never invested in foreign currencies and commodities. The accused did not use any of the monies for the purported investment." Aw's bogus investment pitch led to the woman handing over \$68,250 to him between May and June 2016. He used a similar method to cheat five other women between August 2016 and July 2017. Four of the victims were Singaporeans while the fifth was an Indonesian living in Singapore. They were aged between 39 and 48 years. Aw has so far made a restitution of \$500.



Peter Aw Boo Cheong, 47, who is out on \$40,000 bail, is expected to be sentenced on Tuesday for cheating six women.

DPP Tan told the court that Aw has a history of committing similar offences and urged District Judge Chay Yuen Fatt to sentence him to at least five years' jail. The court also heard that Aw had served 14 months' jail in 2013 after cheating four women of \$55,000. He had met them on dating websites. Aw, who is out on \$40,000 bail, is expected to be sentenced on Tuesday for cheating the six women. For each count of cheating, he can be jailed for up to 10 years and fined. aashaffiq@sph.com.sg

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Above: Indonesian President Joko Widodo, First Lady Iriana and former minister Hatta Rajasa (left), at the National University Hospital to visit former first lady Ani Yudhoyono, who has been receiving blood cancer treatment at the hospital.

ST PHOTO: DESMOND FOO

Right: Mrs Yudhoyono with her daughter-in-law Annisa Pohan.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ANIYUDHOYONO

Idayu Suparto

Indonesian President Joko Widodo yesterday flew to Singapore to visit former first lady Ani Yudhoyono, who has been receiving treatment for blood cancer at the National University Hospital (NUH).

Mrs Yudhoyono, the wife of former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, has been hospitalised in Singapore since Feb 2.

Mr Joko was accompanied on the visit by First Lady Iriana and their son Kaesang Pangarep, the Antara national news agency reported.

Mr Joko told reporters before leaving for Singapore that he had wanted to allocate special time to visit Mrs Yudhoyono and her husband.

Mr Joko took over as Indonesia's president from Dr Yudhoyono, who served from 2004 to 2014.

Mr Joko was received at the hospital by the couple's elder son, Mr Agus Harimurti, and Mr Hatta Raza, a former minister and father-in-law to their younger son Edhie Baskoro.

"Let's pray together so that Ibu Ani Yudhoyono can be healed soon (and) be healthy so that she can re-

turn home," The Jakarta Post quoted Mr Joko as saying. The paper said he was to return to Jakarta yesterday evening.

Dr Yudhoyono told a press conference in Singapore last week that his wife had been undergoing intensive medical care at NUH, The Jakarta Post reported.

Last week, it was reported that Dr Yudhoyono, who is the chairman of Indonesia's Democratic Party, would not be participating in any campaign events ahead of the general election in April, so as to be by his wife's side until her condition improves.

Mr Joko had previously deployed the presidential medical team to work with the Singapore doctors treating Mrs Yudhoyono.

Mrs Yudhoyono has been documenting her struggle dealing with the illness on Instagram.

On Tuesday, she posted a photo of herself sitting together with her daughter-in-law Annissa Pohan, who is married to Mr Agus.

"I am grateful for the blessings of Allah, second by second, minute by minute, hour after hour, day after day," she wrote in the post.

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NEA tender for hawker centre in Tampines aims to cut need for manual transfer of waste

Lester Wong

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is calling for tenders for the installation and maintenance of an automated food-waste conveyance system at Our Tampines Hub (OTH) hawker centre.

The pilot project is part of current food-wastage reduction and recycling efforts at the hawker centre, NEA said yesterday, adding that it will also demonstrate how automation can be incorporated into the food-waste collection system to improve productivity.

The tender is expected to be awarded by the second quarter of this year, with the system to be operationally ready by the end of the year.

The successful bidder will be required to install the system in phases, maintain it, monitor its utilisation, and train stallholders and table cleaners to use it.

The NEA told The Straits Times it will bear the cost of the installation and maintenance of the system which will not be passed down to the managing agent or stallholders. "It is estimated that stallholders will need to pay about \$1.50 more a month in electricity costs for the running of the system. NEA will monitor any potential increases to the cost to stallholders as part of the trial," said an NEA spokesman.

The OTH hawker centre is one of the seven currently managed by private social enterprises and co-operatives.

The arrangement drew flak last year, with concerns over how much these hawkers were charged for services such as tray returns and dish cleaning.

The NEA had said it would review the current model to improve

conditions for hawkers.

The new conveyance system at OTH will eliminate the need for the manual transfer of food waste.

Currently, food waste is segregated into covered bins provided to each stall, and these are then transferred to large waste bins at tray-return stations by stallholders.

The large bins are also used by the cleaners who clear leftover food on tables.

When the large bins are full, cleaners wheel them to the food-waste recycling room located in the basement of OTH, where the waste is converted into non-potable water, a liquid nutrient, and organic fertiliser.

When the conveyance system is in place, food waste will be ground and conveyed from each of the 42 stalls and two tray-return stations at the hawkler centre directly to the food-waste treatment system in a closed system.

The greater convenience is expected to boost the food-waste recycling rate at the OTH hawker centre, with the closed system reducing smells that may arise from the collection and transportation of such waste.

The NEA also noted that the project is in line with Singapore's vision of a Zero Waste Nation, and its aim of an overall recycling rate of 70 per cent by 2030.

Food waste here has risen 40 per cent over the past 10 years, from 568,000 tonnes disposed of by households and the food industry in 2008, to around 809,800 tonnes in 2017. This made up 23 per cent of total waste disposed of in Singapore in 2017, with only 16 per cent recycled.

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Specialist Cadet Muhammad Haireen Mahadi, 28, was awarded yesterday for being the top trainee in his infantry course. ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR

Lim Min Zhang

In his teenage years, Specialist Cadet (SCT) Muhammad Haireen Mahadi, who described himself as “rebellious”, did not do well in his studies and even stopped going to secondary school when he was 15.

"I was irresponsible, lazy and did not make the right decisions, but army life instilled discipline and regimentation in me," said SCT Haireen, 28, who enlisted in 2009 and is now a regular with the Army Deployment Force. He had thought about signing on while he was a full-time national serviceman infantry trooper in the 3rd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, but did not feel he was ready at that time.

He completed sports science and fitness instructor courses with the Singapore Sports Council in 2013, and was later a personal fitness trainer and an instructor with Singapore Armed Forces' Centre of Excellence for Soldier Performance.

Yesterday, he was awarded the Golden Bayonet for being the top trainee in his infantry course at the 38th Specialist Cadet Graduation

Parade at Pasir Laba Camp.

The parade was reviewed by Senior Minister of State for Transport and for Health Lam Pin Min.

A total of 1,058 cadets graduated to become full-fledged specialists of the SAF, marking the completion of their 22-week Specialist Cadet Course.

Dr Lam said the SAF today is an effective and professional force capable of protecting Singaporeans and national interests.

"For most Singaporeans, the most salient impact of the SAF lies in the ordinary – the ability to go about our daily lives as per normal, without fear or disruption."

Dr Lam also called on commanders to keep the safety of their troops as a “top priority”, even while training them hard.

For Specialist Cadet Jesslyn Yeo, 25, signing on with the military fulfilled her childhood dream.

The former physiotherapist signed on with the military police after a positive experience as an auxiliary security trooper with the SAF Volunteer Corps in 2017.

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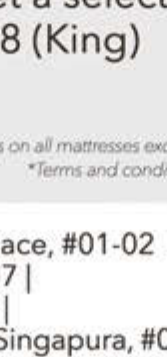
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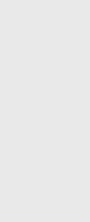
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Healthstats founders lose bid to sue directors

Judge rules that the ousted duo brought up the suit to retaliate against their removal

Selina Lum
Law Correspondent

Two founders of a medical device company, who were ousted, tried to sue two directors of the firm, accusing them of failing to protect its trade secrets.

Healthstats founders Ting Choon Meng and Chua Ngak Hwee said they were removed so that the firm's "crown jewels" – software source code for its key product – could be passed to a third party.

They said they wanted to bring a lawsuit on the company's behalf against directors Lian Chin Chiang and Chang Hon Yee for breaching their fiduciary duties. But the High Court threw out their arguments, saying that there was a complete lack of evidence for their claims.

Judicial Commissioner Ang Cheng Hock found that Dr Ting and Mr Chua had taken the legal action not in good faith, but in retaliation for being removed.

In his judgment, the judge noted

the pair's removal did not sit well with them. He cited vitriol directed by Dr Ting towards his former subordinates, such as likening the chief financial officer to a "dog (that) has recognised a new master".

Dr Ting was executive chairman while Mr Chua was chief technology officer of Healthstats, which has made losses since it was started in 2000. Its main product was a wrist-worn blood-pressure monitoring device, and the source code

and algorithm were trade secrets.

In 2017, the pair sought new investors. Mr Chang and Mr Charles Chen invested \$20 million in Healthstats through a vehicle and became majority shareholders.

Mr Chang, Mr Lian and Mr Tan Shern Liang were appointed Healthstats directors. Mr Lian was made chief executive of Healthstats.

Later, a memorandum of understanding between Healthstats and Australian biomedical product development company, Planet Innovation (PI), was signed to integrate the former's device with the latter's patient monitoring system.

In February last year, Mr Lian



Dr Ting Choon Meng (left) and Mr Chua Ngak Hwee claim the directors failed to protect Healthstats' trade secrets. ST FILE PHOTO

wanted to step down as CEO due to "irreconcilable differences" with Dr Ting, Mr Chua and Mr Tan. But

Mr Chang decided that Mr Tan should leave instead.

On March 1, Mr Tan resigned as director and Dr Ting and Mr Chua were suspended.

In front of employees, Mr Lian told an engineer to copy the source code into a hard disk. The hard disk was taken home by a manager but returned to the office six days later.

The reasons for the suspension included attempts by the founders to make "wrongful" payments to themselves totalling \$1.6 million.

Both were fired and removed as directors in May.

Represented by Mr Pradeep Pillai of PRP Law, the two sacked men al-

leged that Mr Lian copied the source code because he and Mr Chang intended to share it with PI.

But Mr Lian's lawyer, Mr Adrian Tan of TSMP Law Corp, said there was nothing surreptitious about this. Mr Lian said he was making a backup copy so that Healthstats would not be "held ransom" by Dr Ting and Mr Chua.

The defendants' lawyers, who include Ms Blossom Hing of Drew & Napier and Ms Koh Swee Yen of WongPartnership, said the ousted pair were abusing the legal process to wrest back control of the firm.

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Ex-company V-P jailed over upskirt images

Shaffiq Alkhatib

For nearly 10 years, the vice-president of a company dealing with transportation used an array of devices to capture sexually compromising images of 11 women, including family members and subordinates.

The 58-year-old man, who was sacked when police started their investigations, used mobile phones as well as digital and spy cameras to commit his offences from 2007 to October 2016.

His victims included three of his wife's younger sisters, her brother's wife and four subordinates. Another three of his victims were unknown.

The man, who cannot be named due to a gag order to protect his victims' identities, was jailed for a year yesterday after pleading guilty to 28 counts of insulting a woman's modesty.

He also admitted to one count of disposing of two recording devices which could be produced as evidence of his offences. Seventy-nine other charges were considered during sentencing.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Eunice Lau said the man also had a "fetish" for using editing software Photoshop to tweak the images – replacing the heads of pornography models with those of his victims.

The court heard that viewing these modified images sexually excited him.

DPP Lau added that for the cases involving his family members, the man "capitalised" on his role as the family photographer to "facilitate his offending innocuously" during gatherings.

She told District Judge Hamidah Ibrahim: "As the accused had a ready excuse for always having his digital camera on hand, he shrewdly made use of this to take compromising shots of his female relatives under the guise of his role as photographer."

As for his subordinates, the man made use of his interactions with them during work meetings to obtain compromising images of them when they were seated.

His offences came to light in September 2016 when three of his colleagues – all men – spotted him holding his mobile phone in a suspicious manner near one of the victims on separate occasions.

The trio alerted their firm's head of human resources and lodged a police report on Oct 4, 2016.

After providing his first statement to the police, the man went back to his office the next day to obtain two recording devices and threw them away.

The court heard that one of the devices was shaped like a USB thumb-drive while the other looked like a pen.

Defence lawyer Roger Yek told the court in his mitigation plea that his client had cooperated with the police.

For each count of insulting a woman's modesty, he could have been jailed for up to a year and fined.

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Poornima Venkataraman
Data Specialist, Facebook
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Poornima hopes to change the way millions receive education and knowledge. Her NUS journey, shaped by invaluable mentorships as well as experiences from the NUS Overseas College programme and NUS Entrepreneurship Society, led her to think bigger.

At Facebook, she connects people, creates communities to share advice and expertise, and enables them to move forward together.

Applications to NUS will open to all nationalities presenting the Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level qualification, three working days after the release of the 2018 results.

Applications close on 19 March 2019.



Newspaper vendor, 70, dies in accident involving bus, lorry

Police arrest bus driver for causing death by negligent act, appealing for eye-witnesses

Tee Zhuo

Before the sun came up, Mr Oh Swee Hai would already be out delivering newspapers in the Shunfu area on his motorcycle – his daily routine for more than 50 years.

But his round yesterday morning

turned out to be his last. The 70-year-old was on his way home when he died in an accident involving an SBS bus and a lorry.

Police said they were alerted to the accident in Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1, in the direction of Upper Thomson Road, at 6am.

Mr Oh was pronounced dead at

the scene by paramedics.

Police have arrested the bus driver, 46, for causing death by a negligent act.

Ms Tammy Tan, senior vice-president of corporate communications at SBS Transit, said that, based on eyewitness accounts, the motorcyclist had just been involved in another accident and was lying on the road when the bus approached.

“Unfortunately, our bus captain was not able to avoid him in time,” Ms Tan said. “We are very sad that



Police officers at the scene of the accident early yesterday morning along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1 in which Mr Oh Swee Hai, 70, died. Mr Oh had delivered SPH newspapers in the Shunfu area for more than 50 years. PHOTO: SHIN MIN DAILY NEWS

this has happened and are trying to get in touch with the gentleman's next-of-kin to assist them during this difficult time.”

Mr Oh used to deliver newspa-

pers for media company Singapore Press Holdings (SPH), which prints The Straits Times, among other newspapers.

Even after he retired in 2013, he continued to help his brother, a registered newspaper vendor with SPH. Mr Oh was the eldest of five brothers.

Mr Chua Wee Phong, executive vice-president of circulation at SPH, extended the company's deepest condolences to his family.

“We are sad to learn about the accident that resulted in the death of our newspaper vendor, Mr Oh Swee Hai, who devoted more than 50 years of his life distributing our newspapers to our readers,” he said.

Speaking to The Straits Times, Mr Oh's younger brother, Mr Aw Boon Leong, said his family was saddened by the news.

He said his late brother was dedicated to his job. They had been working together since they were in their 20s. “He would wake up at 2am every day, have his coffee at the food centre in Shunfu, and begin delivering, finishing by about 6am,” said the 58-year-old.

Photos provided to Chinese-language daily Lianhe Wanbao show

newspapers strewn across the road at the site of the accident. A red motorcycle, identified as Mr Oh's, was lying on its side on the road.

In another photo, the SBS Transit bus can be seen being towed away.

Mr Aw said the family would be able to claim Mr Oh's body only today as the police are conducting investigations.

The police said, in response to queries, that they are appealing for witnesses to come forward to assist with investigations.

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We are sad to learn about the accident that resulted in the death of our newspaper vendor, Mr Oh Swee Hai, who devoted more than 50 years of his life distributing our newspapers to our readers.



MR CHUA WEE PHONG, executive vice-president of circulation at SPH.

Lianhe Zaobao Singapore Budget 2019 Business Forum

8 March 2019 (Friday)

9am – 1pm

The Fullerton Hotel Singapore

Dialogue With Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat

In the 2019 Singapore Budget, the government allocated S\$4.6 billion to implement economic transformation initiatives to create a vibrant economy. How will local companies leverage on these measures to deal with the challenges in the midst of transformation and innovation?

Lianhe Zaobao's fourth annual Budget Business Forum invites you to join Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat in a face-to-face session to talk about the significance and opinions of the new Budget.

Forum will be conducted in Mandarin.

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Photographs like this provided by the ICA show a crude shelter made of tarp, and shelves with baskets and containers. ICA officers were led to the makeshift housing within a Choa Chua Kang cemetery by one of the suspects. PHOTO: ICA



6 Myanmar 'gravediggers' nabbed in cemetery by ICA

Six men from Myanmar who claimed to be gravediggers were arrested at a Choa Chu Kang cemetery on Tuesday morning, said the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA).

The men, aged between 22 and 42, are suspected of committing immigration-related offences, including overstaying in Singapore, said ICA in a statement yesterday.

One of the men tried to run away when ICA officers approached the area at about 8.40am.

The officers gave chase and managed to nab him. He then led them to some makeshift housing within the cemetery, where the other five men were found.

Photographs provided by the ICA show a crude shelter made of tarp, and shelves with baskets and containers. Plastic stools, cleaning sup-

plies and hanging towels can also be seen. One large container holds what appear to be empty beer cans.

Under the Immigration Act, those found guilty of overstaying or illegal entry can be jailed for up to six months, and given at least three strokes of the cane.

The penalty for illegal departure includes a fine not exceeding \$2,000, a jail term of up to six months, or both.

ICA said it takes a serious view of attempts to overstay, enter or leave Singapore illegally.

It added: “ICA is committed to safeguard Singapore's security and will continue with our inland enforcement efforts to ensure that the immigration offenders situation is kept under control.”

Tee Zhuo

Over 2,000 jobs available at Jewel Changi Airport

A recruitment fair offering over 2,000 jobs at Jewel Changi Airport was launched yesterday at Our Tampines Hub.

The two-day career fair features job openings from 50 tenants and agencies comprising various sectors such as food and beverage services, retail and cleaning.

BreadTalk Group will be setting up a BreadTalk outlet and a Toast Box branch at Jewel Changi Airport. Its senior vice-president of Group HR, Admin & Training, Mr Chan Wing Git, said it is looking to hire frontline and back-of-house staff like cashiers, service crew and bakers.

Careers @ Jewel Changi Airport was organised by the North East Community Development Council and Workforce Singapore, with sup-

port from Jewel Changi Airport Devt and its partners. North East District Mayor Desmond Choo, who launched Careers @ Jewel Changi Airport, said: “Through this career fair, our residents will have a one-stop platform to find or be trained for good jobs close to their homes.”

Jewel Changi Airport will comprise retail and dining outlets, gardens, play attractions, a hotel and aviation facilities.

Interested people who did not pre-register for the career fair online can do a walk-in today. Those who are unable to attend the career fair can participate in WSG's Virtual Career Fair at vcf.mycareersfuture.sg/-jewel from tomorrow to March 15.

Shabana Begum

Jolovan Wham will serve the default sentence of 16 days' jail instead of paying the fine, his lawyer said.

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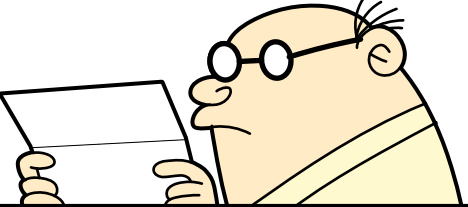
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FORUM

Lee Kah's TAKE

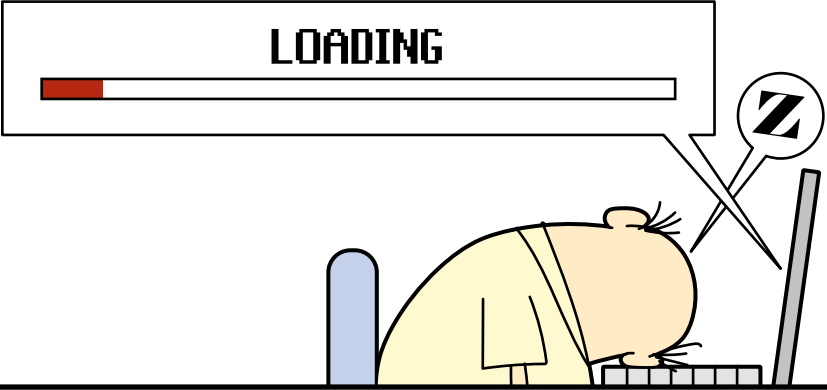
A change to ensure telco bills are more transparent:

Customers to be provided with a standardised breakdown of charges.



Here's one more change we'd like to see:

Customers to be billed according to the **actual** broadband speed, instead of what was advertised.



Clearer laws on road etiquette needed

Riding bicycles in Singapore has evolved from a cheap alternative mode of transportation into a full-fledged recreational activity. As the number of cyclists continues to expand rapidly, the problems associated with sharing the roads have also increased dramatically. Singapore is a tiny nation and, even without bicycles, our roads and paths are crowded. Traffic jams often occur even with the slightest accident. Add to this the burgeoning number of cyclists

jostling for space on the roads. Already such close proximity has resulted in accidents and fights. It is easy to suggest that road users show kindness and patience while sharing roads. However, life in Singapore is hectic. Time and space are commodities we have little of. This makes drivers less tolerant of cyclists occupying half or more of a lane, forcing the driver to switch lanes. Thus far, the authorities seem to have chosen a mainly watch-and-see approach, but more

proactive management is required. Legislation on proper riding on roads should be broadcast to all road users. Those who flout the rules, whether cyclist or driver, should be punished. On the flip side, the authorities should allocate more clearly defined footpaths and provide more cycling routes that don't involve major roads. Riding is a healthy pastime which should be encouraged. However cyclists should also be made aware of their responsibilities and the fact that space is limited. Let's work towards a safe, healthy and smooth journey for all. **Peter Loon Seng Chee**

Consumers should switch retailers when price plan goes sour

The Open Electricity Market (OEM) is currently being rolled out across Singapore to increase market competition in the industry and, thus, lower the electricity price. While the motivation and mechanism of such a market are sound in theory, the outcome may be different. The OEM may, in fact, drive the wholesale market price – the price to generate power – down while inflating the retail market – the kWh price consumers pay monthly. This is the inconvenient truth seen in mature markets in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and United States. For businesses, it is not just legal to maximise profits, but also a requirement that shareholders

enforce. The long-term outcome for consumers is obvious – a more expensive electricity bill. Of course, short-term cheap plans will be offered to secure customers before the harvest. For example, the profit margin for electricity retailers in the Australian state of Victoria increased to around 13 per cent in 2017 – more than double what it was when regulators set prices. To control the inflation of prices, the Energy Market Authority needs to impose a cap on profit margins. This is a tricky business, and the optimal equilibrium can only be found in a trial-and-error manner. Consumers should also not just blame retailers for price increases, as they are equally responsible.

For example, UK retailers found that their customers are generally inactive in switching retailers. This is as consumers are put off by the fine for contract termination and switching costs, despite them knowing that the long-term loss outweighs the short-term expense. This led to price discrimination in the UK. For example, companies offered cheaper prices in new untapped locations while ramping the price in established areas. Consumers should enjoy the short-term cheap electricity bills, but need to be proactive in switching retailers. They should treat the OEM retailers as stocks and not as bonds, and switch when the price plan goes sour. **Jimmy Chih-Hsien Peng (Dr)**

Decriminalising suicide could lower incidence rate

I applaud the move to finally decriminalise suicide, and lament the lingering resistance to it ('Do more to help those at risk of suicide', Feb 13; and Pitfalls of decriminalising attempted suicide, by Ms Ho Lay Ping, Feb 16). Being familiar with mental health struggles and having experienced the suicides of two schoolmates, I empathise with Ms Ho's past struggle with suicide and congratulate her on her recovery. However, I believe her fear of

suicide decriminalisation is misguided. While the "stigma associated with mental illness and suicide" may have prompted her to seek alternatives, it is presumptuous to assume that this applies to every suicidal person. Further, the alternatives sought by someone so successfully deterred, such as self-harm, could be unhelpful and damaging. There is much empirical evidence that stigmatising mental

illness and suicide is more detrimental than beneficial to suicide prevention efforts and public mental health. Much of this stigma is inherently attached to suicide criminality – the phrase "commit suicide" immediately labels the victim of mental illness as an offensive criminal. There is further evidence that suicide decriminalisation lowers the number of successful suicides. After suicide was decriminalised in England and Wales in 1961 by the Suicide Act, a statistical analysis conducted by the Office of National Statistics from 1961 to 1974 found that as a whole, suicide rates declined. **Cheng Zimin**



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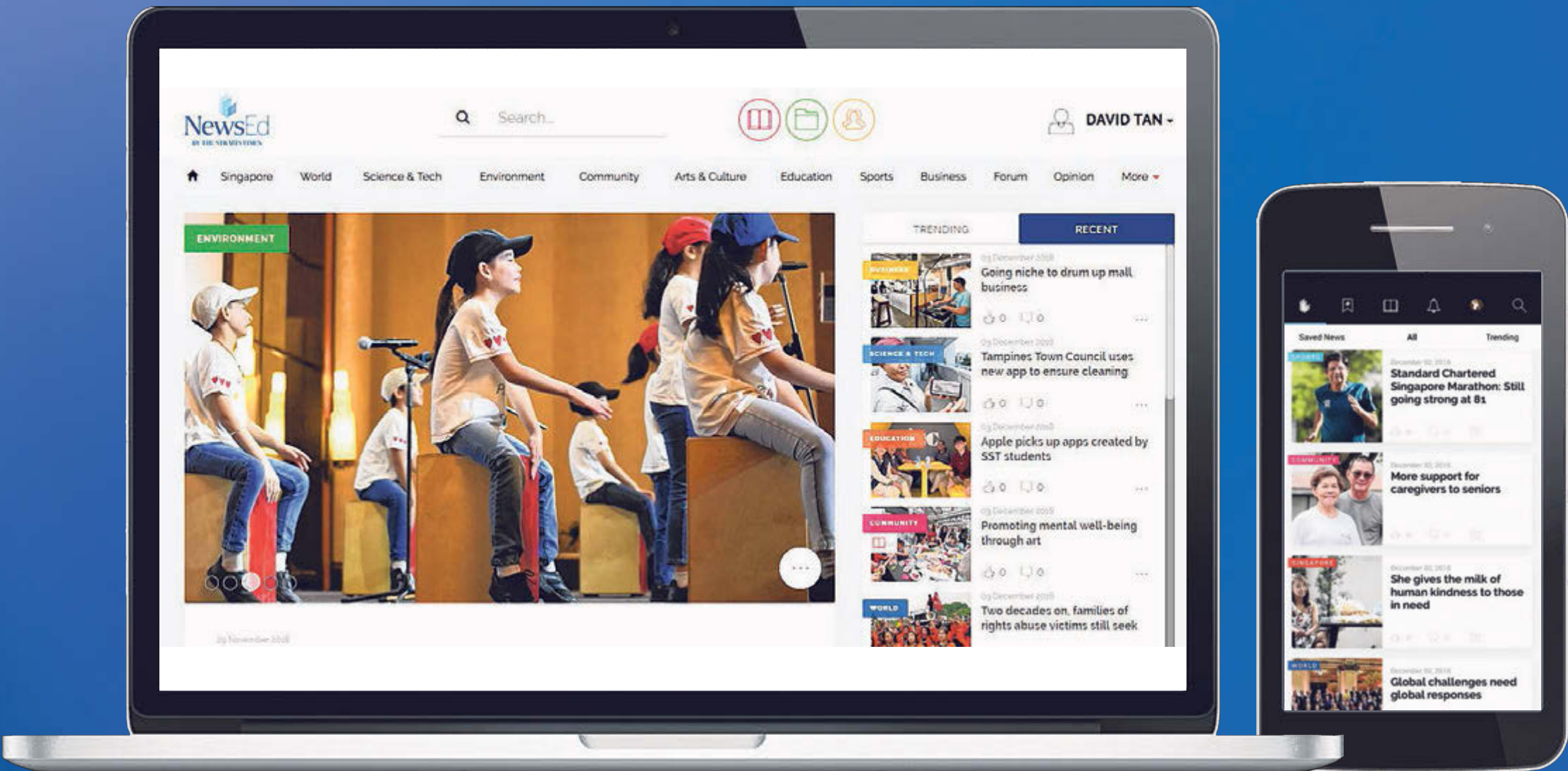
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Time to update PDPA

Kudos to the Ministry of Health for swiftly investigating, rectifying and remediating the IT error caused by an external vendor (Chas subsidies for about 7,700 people miscalculated due to IT error: MOH, Feb 16).

The trend of huge amounts of personal data collected and transferred to third-party organisations is expected to grow exponentially, as the processing and analysis of large amounts of personal data become possible with new technology.

We should be prepared for more of such data errors and breaches in public and private institutions.

The last revision of our Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), which establishes a data protection law that comprises various rules

governing the collection, use, disclosure and care of personal data, was in 2012.

It is time to evaluate and make changes to the Act.

First, Singapore should consider instituting a chief information commissioner, in charge of the protection of personal data across public and private institutions, similar to India, the United Kingdom and Australia.

Second, the Info-communications Media Development Authority of Singapore should consider joining the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners forum to share best practices of more than 120 countries and organisations in the world in a timely manner.

Third, we should mandate a

certain period of time within which organisations have to make public data breaches in public and private entities as part of the PDPA.

Such legislation is already in place in Australia, UK and Finland.

This will prevent any unfair accusation of covering up by organisations, which have to deal with sensitive matters and do not have any clear guidelines under the legal provisions to fall back on.

How we deal with future incidents is vital so as not to destroy the integrity of our public institutions.

These revisions will entrench our competitiveness and reputation as a trusted business hub, and will attract more investments to Singapore.

Edward Tay Wee Meng

Actions to protect personal data constantly enhanced

We refer to the letter (Time to admit, fix mistake and move on, Feb 16) by Mr Patrick Tan Siong Kuan, who shared his views on the public sector's data governance standards.

Communications and Information Minister S. Iswaran's statement clarified that the public sector was bound to the same if not higher standards than the private sector, due to the Public Sector (Governance) Act and the accompanying internal rules.

Examples of these rules include the requirement for all files containing personal data to be protected with a strong password, and for agencies to undergo regular and mandatory internal audits for compliance to security requirements.

Mr Tan mentioned the high data security standards of financial institutions.

The Government continuously learns from such best practices by the private sector, as well as the mistakes made by companies, to further strengthen our data governance.

For example, in 2015, SingPass – the gateway to hundreds of Government digital services – was enhanced to include a two-factor authentication process for government digital transactions involving sensitive data.

We also implemented measures to secure and manage privileged accounts with access to sensitive data.

We agree with Mr Tan that the

security protocols for the HIV Registry in 2012-2013 were inadequate, especially by today's standards.

The Government has progressively enhanced security measures to safeguard sensitive data.

The Internet surfing separation policy was introduced in 2016, and the disabling of USB ports from being accessed by unauthorised devices was introduced in 2017.

These measures guard against the unauthorised extraction of large quantities of data from Government systems.

We have also increased the number and types of internal IT audits, to check on agencies' data access and data protection measures.

Mr Tan rightly pointed out that even a highly secure and robust system could be compromised by errant individuals who wilfully flout policies and rules.

The Government takes seriously its responsibility as a steward of the citizen and business data it collects.

We will continuously review our standards and measures to safeguard personal data, and will incorporate lessons from recent incidents, as well as relevant industry best practices, to update and improve the public sector's data security policies.

Quek Su Lynn (Ms)
Director, Government Data Office
Smart Nation and Digital Government Office
Prime Minister's Office

Excerpts from readers' letters

NO MORE REFUND FOR EZ-LINK CARDS

Previously, I was able to get a refund of the remaining value in expired ez-link cards from the Transitlink office. But a few days ago, my daughter was told that she would not get a refund for a card that expired in November. She had to pay \$3 to renew the card so as to use the value in it.

What is the point of including an expiry date on ez-link cards and making customers buy a new one?

Poon Mui Kei

CLERICAL JOBS FOR SENIORS

When I went to the polyclinic and hospital for a check-up, I noticed that certain duties that were being performed there could be done by elderly people.

Registration duties, for example, are simple enough for the elderly.

We should let seniors do such clerical duties as they are as capable of doing the job as well as younger people.

John Wee



Criteria for means testing can be further simplified

In a recent letter, the Ministry of Finance stated that in designing different schemes, care is taken to minimise complexity (Various means-testing criteria used for social schemes, Feb 15).

This is not the case in reality.

I refer to the different criteria in use currently for means testing for households with no income.

For the Community Health Assist Scheme (Chas), the annual residence value is set at \$21,000 and below. For foreign domestic worker grants, which will now be replaced

by the monthly Home Caregiving Grant, the annual residence value is set at \$13,000 and below.

Similarly, for schemes under the Ministry of Health and administered by the Agency for Integrated Care, the annual residence value is set at \$13,000 and below, excluding those with no annual income but whose residence value is between \$13,000 and \$21,000.

My 90-year-old mother, who is a Singapore citizen, is bed-bound and I, as her daughter and sole

caregiver, retired eight years ago to look after her.

However, she does not qualify for any of the social schemes other than the Chas card, because her old terrace house has a residence value that exceeds \$13,000 but is within the \$21,000 criterion for the Chas card.

Why can't the means testing be simplified, updated and the annual residence value for all the schemes be set at, say, \$21,000 for households with no income?

Manjit Kour (Miss)

S'pore can be dominant force in established industries

I cannot agree more with Mr Liu Fook Thim that Singapore must restructure traditional industries rather than venture into new areas which we have no expertise in (Re-engineer established industries to help PMETs, Feb 19).

As high costs make us a less inviting option for many overseas firms, it is time to reposition our economy. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) must quickly step up to fill the shoes of multinational corporations (MNCs) that are offshoring their businesses out of Singapore.

As SMEs have to take a giant step up to fill the void, tax incentives and grants will help businesses strengthen their capabilities, restructure, develop their workers and provide them with the finances to expand overseas.

SMEs lack the financial muscle and economies of scale that MNCs possess. Hence, they face far more stringent credit guidelines from banks to fuel their expansion.

The Economic Development Board and Enterprise Singapore can assist by developing local private-sector businesses to

contribute to supply chains.

This can involve introducing schemes that help local businesses tap opportunities for expansion to give them a competitive advantage in the global market.

In order for local enterprises to create genuine value, they must generate new products and services in established industries.

This will pave the way for such businesses to grow through collaboration with MNCs to meet global demands, and not just the needs of the domestic market.

The authorities must also ensure

a level playing field of support for small businesses by offering them the same incentives as MNCs to get up to speed.

While it may sound like a good idea for SMEs to cooperate by leveraging one another's core competencies, the reality is that business rivals will never risk sharing any knowledge that gives their competitors a leg-up.

Establishing more protocols in order to facilitate collaboration may have the unintended effect of restricting the way SMEs operate when collaborating.

While huge foreign companies move out of Singapore, we can make Singapore the preferred destination for foreign firms to shift their higher-value R&D here to develop their ideas, revolutionise growth areas and adopt new technologies.

Local R&D firms will also benefit from partnering with these foreign counterparts. The transfer of knowledge may help us become a dominant force in some of the established industries we once excelled in.

Edmund Khoo Kim Hock

FORUM ONLINE

1. ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN FOR ACTION AND RESEARCH: Aware backs NTUC's suggestions to help lower-income workers.

2. MADAM DOROTHY HO MEI XIAN: Minor changes to school's uniform will solve problem.

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Navejot Pawera is the director and head of design at Buuuk, a Singapore-based tech studio that has helped government and private organisations win international awards with their innovative digital solutions. He had previously worked with clients in India and Norway before working in Singapore.

THE TRAINERS

Azhar Kasman is the Editor of Stomp, SPH's award-winning citizen-journalism site, and also a Content Strategist for SPH's English, Malay, Tamil Media Group. Besides his editorial duties, Azhar explores new digital technologies and innovations for the newsroom and works closely with business clients to help them conceptualise and execute their digital content strategies.



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THE TRAINERS

A veteran media professional, **Geoffrey Pereira** has taken on various journalistic and media support roles in The Straits Times since 1986. Prior to that, he was a philosophy tutor at the National University of Singapore while working on his postgraduate degree.



A senior journalist at The Straits Times, **Shefali Rekhi** is also an editor at Asia News Network, an alliance of 23 news media. She is one of the key anchors in ST's initiatives to fight fake news.

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Historic farewell

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Teacher **Brandon** graduated with a first-class honours degree in English Literature from Nanyang Technological University and qualified for the dean's list. A teacher at The Write Corner, he values critical and inventive thinking in both reading and writing.



Teacher **Abigail** is an English Language major at the National University of Singapore. She has taught and designed English curriculum in MOE schools and reputable learning centres. She enjoys breaking down challenging literary techniques into digestible writing techniques for students to apply in their compositions.

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Record high in trade between S'pore, EU

Goods trade hit \$89b in 2018; total trade over symbolic €100b mark for first time in 2017

Ng Jun Sen
Business Correspondent

The EU Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert said the trade data between the two jurisdictions was "clear evidence of the dynamic trade and investment relations between two like-minded partners who support free and fair trade".

Trade in goods between Singapore and the European Union reached a record high of €58.1 billion (\$89 billion) in 2018, a 9 per cent increase from 2017, latest data from the European Commission shows.

The EU has also increased its surplus in goods trade with Singapore, which has been growing since 2015, to hit €16 billion in 2018, up from €13 billion in 2017.

Singapore exported €21.1 billion worth of goods, mainly organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products, last year – an 11.7 per cent year-on-year increase. Imports, mainly of machinery and transport equipment, from the European bloc also grew, rising by 4.8 per cent to reach €37.1 billion.



European legislators voting for the upcoming European Union-Singapore Free Trade Agreement at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France on Feb 13. The EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement and a partnership and cooperation agreement were also given the go-ahead. PHOTO: EPA-EFE

The new trade data included services trade for 2017 but similar data for 2018 is still unavailable.

The data showed that total trade in goods and services surpassed the symbolic €100 billion mark for the first time in 2017. It hit €104 billion, comprising €53.3 billion in goods trade and €51.1 billion in services trade, according to a statement by the EU Delegation to Singapore yesterday.

While Singapore suffered a deficit with the EU on merchandise trade, the 2017 data showed the reverse for investment flow, with

more EU investors flocking into Singapore than the other way round.

Foreign direct investment from the EU in 2017 increased by 15.8 per cent year on year, reaching €227 billion, cementing the bloc's position as the largest foreign investor in Singapore. Singapore invested €117 billion in Europe, 14.7 per cent less than in 2016.

The record-breaking trade figures come in the wake of a confident nod by European parliamentarians for the upcoming EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which looks set to be ratified later

this year. The EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and a partnership and cooperation agreement were also given the go-ahead.

The EU Ambassador to Singapore Barbara Plinkert said the trade data between the two jurisdictions was "clear evidence of the dynamic trade and investment relations between two like-minded partners who support free and fair trade".

"The FTA and IPA will further boost economic relations as they facilitate trade and create a transparent framework for invest-

ment," she added.

Singapore Manufacturing Federation president Douglas Foo, who is also a Nominated Member of Parliament, said that as manufactured goods make up a sizeable portion of Singapore's EU imports, firms here could feel more competition from EU companies entering the local market.

But this would benefit consumers overall, as the competition will lower prices and raise quality of both goods and services, he said.

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11D LETS GO CAUCASUS EGCS11 ✓Mtskheta, Signaghi (Among Top 10 of Most Beautiful Georgian Town) ✓Sevan, Yerevan (Among Top 10 of Most Beautiful Armenian City) →Dep: Apr - Dec fr\$2399*	12D LETS GO EXOTIC EASTERN BALKAN ESB112 ✓Top 10 Regions in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2016 - Transylvania, Romania →Dep: Apr - Dec fr\$1799*	10D LETS GO FINLAND + NORWAY EWN10 ✓10Km Husky Sledge ✓Reindeer Sledge ✓Ice Fishing ✓Winter Horse Sledge →Dep: Apr 2019- Mar 2020 fr\$3399*	10D MYSTERIOUS SILK ROAD (NORTH XINJIANG) SKCR ✓"Kanas Lake: A Paradise on Earth" ✓Dunhuang Mogao Grotto/Mingsha Mountain/Crescent Spring/Tianshui Majishan Grotto →Dep: Mar - Oct fr\$1598*	8D GUILIN/LONGJI TERRACED FIELDS/SANJIANG MINORITY CGGD ✓4* - 5* Hotel ✓2N Guilin International 5* Shangri-La hotel (exclusive) →Dep: Mar - Oct fr\$899* incl. tax	8/10D ZHANGJIAJIE /PHOENIX ANCIENT TOWN/WULONG+ THREE GORGES CTPJ/CDD ✓Special Gourmets: Harmonia Yao Feast ✓VIP 2+1 Seater Coach*, 2Night Zhangjiajie Crowne Plaza HTL 5* →Dep: Mar - Jun fr\$1289*
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ERA chief executive Jack Chua detailing the property firm's regional expansion at yesterday's ERA 2019 Asia-Pacific Business Conference. ERA started Plush, a service tailored for wealthy buyers, in Singapore last month to help the company's staff become more adept at catering to the increasing demands of high-net-worth individuals. PHOTO: ERA

ERA's new service targets wealthy buyers in Asia-Pacific

Around 100 agents here selected to join first phase of roll-out of Plush, started last month

Sue-Ann Tan

Property firm ERA Realty Network is rolling out a service tailored for wealthy buyers across the Asia-Pacific with the aim of becoming the market leader in the region.

Plush, as the service is known, started in Singapore last month to help the firm's staff become more adept at catering to the increasing demands of high-net-worth individuals.

Around 100 ERA agents here were selected to join the first phase of the roll-out.

An ERA spokesman said yesterday: "This (regional) roll-out will enable the entire agent network operating within the niche market segment to network and explore co-broking opportunities across the region."

The company noted that the Asia-Pacific is becoming a well-heeled powerhouse, accounting for about 31 per cent of global high-net-worth individuals' wealth in 2017.

However, ERA said studies have shown that many clients are not satisfied with the service they are getting, citing concerns such as a lack

of personal connection with their wealth managers.

Its spokesman added that ERA teams in each country will undertake market research to learn more about the demographics and needs of wealthy individuals. This information repository will allow the firm to offer a personal, one-stop service for these clients.

There will also be additional training to help agents increase their range of advisory services to include asset management and enhancement, trust and will creation and estate and succession planning.

The firm announced the initiative yesterday at the ERA 2019 Asia-Pacific Business Conference, which attracted regional country heads and around 2,000 real estate agents from 10 countries.

Trade and Industry Minister Chan Chun Sing also helmed a dialogue with guests and presented awards to the top agents in the region.

ERA, which has around 17,800 real estate agents in its network, has made other forays into the region recently.

It has acquired the ERA master



ERA noted that the Asia-Pacific is becoming a well-heeled powerhouse, accounting for about 31 per cent of global high-net-worth individuals' wealth in 2017. ST PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI

ERA said studies have shown that many clients are not satisfied with the service they are getting, citing concerns such as a lack of personal connection with their wealth managers.

franchisor for Indonesia and is taking direct ownership of Thailand ERA master franchise.

ERA chief executive Jack Chua said the agency aims to expand by strengthening its organisation in Singapore and the region, where it plans to make more acquisitions.

"With these expansion plans, ERA looks to... bring the strong Singapore brand to the region," he added.

"While the Singapore real estate market remains stable, opportunities also abound in the overseas markets.

"Take Indonesia, where the market is opening up to allow foreign ownership. Our expansion serves as a timely one, allowing us to take advantage of the wealth of opportunities available in Asia-Pacific."

suetan@sph.com.sg

CDL's Q4 profit falls 54.7% on hotel segment blues

Impairment losses took a toll on property group City Developments (CDL) in the fourth quarter, it announced yesterday.

Net profit for the three months to Dec 31 came in at \$77.9 million, down 54.7 per cent on restated earnings of \$171.9 million recorded in the same period a year earlier.

The results translate to earnings per share of 7.9 cents, compared with 18.2 cents in the same three months in 2017.

In addition to the final ordinary dividend of eight cents a share, the board is also recommending a special dividend of six cents a share.

CDL said profit after tax and minority interests for the quarter rose 17 per cent compared with the same period in 2017, excluding \$94.1 million in impairment losses for hotels and an allowance of \$20.1 million in foreseeable losses for two small-scale projects in Central London that may be leased out. This also factors in a gain from the partial divestment of CDL's interest in two China projects in 2017.

CDL's hotel operations segment registered a loss of \$53.2 million for the quarter following major impairments, particularly in the United States, and the full closure of Millennium Hotel London Mayfair last July.

Revenue dropped 40.6 per cent to \$788.3 million. Turnover in the quarter was recognised primarily from New Futura, The Tapestry and Park Court Aoyama The Tower. Gross profit fell 7.4 per cent.

CDL's other operating income declined to \$640,000 compared with \$76.5 million a year ago. Other operating income comprises mainly gains from disposal of investments, investment properties, and property and plant and equipment.

The developer recorded a gain of \$52 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 from the partial disposal of two China entities that held residential projects, and another \$30 million from the disposal of an office building in Tokyo in September 2017.

CDL posted a net profit of \$557.3 million for the 2018 fiscal year, up 6.7 per cent, as revenue rose 10 per cent to a record \$4.2 billion.

Executive chairman Kwek Leng Beng said: "We are confident that when the global issues are stabilised, Singapore is well-poised to recover given its strong fundamentals. The residential property market sentiments should thereby improve with pent-up demand.

"Moreover, the group has a geographically diversified and income-stable portfolio primarily comprising residences, offices, hotels, serviced apartments, integrated developments and shopping malls, which can weather cyclical impacts and market shifts. When one segment is impacted, another class of asset can help cushion and often make up the difference."

CDL shares closed up 0.11 per cent at \$9.54 yesterday.

AT A GLANCE

REVENUE: \$788.3 million (-40.6%)

NET PROFIT: \$77.9 million (-54.7%)

DIVIDEND PER SHARE: 8 cents + 6 cents (special)



City Developments' Q4 turnover was recognised primarily from projects such as the New Futura condominium (above). PHOTO: CITY DEVELOPMENTS

Sembcorp's Q4 earnings down 10% on marine business losses

SINGAPORE • Sembcorp Industries posted a 10 per cent fall in net profit for the fiscal fourth quarter from a year ago, dragged down by the marine business, the company said yesterday.

Net profit for the three months ended Dec 31 stood at \$106 million, compared with a restated net profit of \$118 million posted in the same period a year ago.

The results translate to earnings per share of 5.42 cents, against earnings per share of 5.96 cents a year earlier. A final dividend of two cents per ordinary share was proposed.

Turnover rose 7 per cent to \$2.57 billion, though gross profit fell 31 per cent as the rise in cost of sales outpaced that of the rise in revenue.

The lower gross profit for the fourth quarter of 2018 was attributed to the marine business, mainly due to continued low overall business volume that impacted the absorption of overhead costs, though offset in part by margin from newly

secured production floater projects and delivery of rigs.

In the year-ago quarter, the marine segment also recorded the net positive effects of contract termination of three rigs, which mainly arose from the entitlement to the down payments on termination of these rig contracts, said Sembcorp.

For the 2018 full year, net profit fell 9 per cent to \$347 million. Sembcorp said for the full year, the marine business recorded a net loss of \$48 million. Excluding the marine business, the group delivered profit growth of 75 per cent.

In a statement, Mr Neil McGregor, chief executive officer of Sembcorp Industries, said: "In 2018, we made progress in repositioning Sembcorp to be successful and sustainable in a rapidly changing world.

"We took actions to reshape and equip the organisation with the right capabilities for the future, while working to strengthen our

AT A GLANCE

REVENUE: \$2.57 billion (+7%)

NET PROFIT: \$106 million (-10%)

DIVIDEND PER SHARE: 2 cents

performance and balance sheet.

"Our strategic initiatives will take time to bear fruit, especially given the prolonged offshore and marine downturn. However, as seen from our FY2018 results, our multi-business strategy provides resilience to the group.

"By leveraging our strengths and embracing change, I am confident that the actions we are taking will put us in good stead as an integrated energy and urban company of the future."

Sembcorp Industries closed at \$2.66 on Wednesday, up \$0.09. It closed unchanged yesterday.

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An employee at the production line of the Kohara Gear Industry factory in Kawaguchi, Japan. The slowing of trade is hurting Japan's factory sector, with manufacturing activity contracting this month for the first time in 2½ years, according to preliminary data released yesterday. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

Asia's export slump signals trade pain has room to run

China's cooling economy, Sino-US trade war, slowing of global tech cycle take toll on trade

14%

Fall in South Korea's exports to China in first 20 days of February.

17%

Fall in Japan's exports to China in January.

TOKYO • Key Asian exporters Japan and South Korea provided fresh evidence over the past two days that the slump in global trade has room to run, and is beginning to spread to factories.

South Korea's total exports tumbled by 12 per cent during the first 20 days of this month, while shipments of semiconductors, a key driver of growth, dropped by 27 per cent.

A day earlier, Japan reported that exports fell 8.4 per cent last month from a year earlier, the first back-to-back fall in more than two years.

One common denominator: both countries' shipments to China fell sharply, as that nation's cooling economy, the United States-China trade war, and a slowing of the global technology cycle all took a toll on world trade.

Declining activity at ports in Hong Kong and Singapore, two of the world's busiest, also demonstrated the impact of weaker demand for Chinese goods.

Japan's exports to China dropped 17 per cent in January, while South Korea's fell 14 per cent in the first 20 days of February.

The shipments to China were likely distorted at least somewhat by the Chinese New Year holiday, but the slump is in line with the longer-term trend.

The slowing of trade is hurting Japan's factory sector, with manufacturing activity contracting this month for the first time in 2½ years, according to preliminary data released yesterday.

Japan's net exports were already a drag on gross domestic product growth during the fourth quarter, according to data released last week.

In South Korea, external factors including the trade war and semiconductor cycle are the backdrop

for a correction in business investment, the finance ministry said in its monthly economic assessment last week.

South Korean exports are likely to drop further in the second quarter as chip prices continue to slide, said Mr Stephen Lee, an economist at Meritz Securities in Seoul. Exports fell 5.8 per cent last month.

The Bank of Korea said in a report to Parliament last week that the prolonged trade war is hurting South Korea as well as the US and China, and it would put significant pressure on global trade and South Korean exports if it worsens.

Trade talks between the US and China are continuing this week in Washington and are scheduled to run through today.

While the slowdown in China is expected to deepen in the first quarter, analysts are seeing signs of stabilisation after that as government support measures kick in. BLOOMBERG

Credit Suisse to impose cash bonus clawback plan

HONG KONG • Credit Suisse Group just tightened the golden handcuffs for some of its most senior bankers.

The Swiss firm will force some managing directors in Asia to repay part of the cash portion of their 2018 bonuses if they leave within three years of receiving it, several people with knowledge of the matter said.

The cash bonus will be fully paid out in the coming weeks, according to the people, who asked not to be named discussing confidential information.

A senior banker in Asia who leaves within a year of collecting the cash bonus will have to repay the bulk of it, the people said.

For each year after that, the portion that must be paid back falls by a third.

For its most highly paid investment bankers in the United States, Credit Suisse will increase the deferred-compensation part of bonuses to bring payout schedules more in line with Europe's, two of the people said.

A spokesman for the Zurich-based bank declined to comment.

It was not clear why Credit Suisse is imposing tougher rules in Asia. But in a region where competition for star private bankers serving the rising ranks of ultra-rich is fierce, the cash clawback will likely put a damper on defections.

By leaving the door open for money to be returned, Credit Suisse can also defer booking some of the cash payouts as costs immediately, two of the people said.

Credit Suisse has adopted a unique structure for its operations in Asia, merging its wealth manage-



A three-year turnaround plan by Credit Suisse chief executive officer Tidjane Thiam has been dogged by poor performance at its markets operations in Asia. PHOTO: REUTERS

It was not clear why Credit Suisse is imposing tougher rules in Asia. But in a region where competition for star private bankers serving the rising ranks of ultra-rich is fierce, the cash clawback will likely put a damper on defections.

ment, investment banking and trading businesses into one unit run by Singapore-based Mr Helman Sitohang. Many banks, including Credit Suisse, have compensation systems that encourage bankers to hang around after collecting their bonuses.

While Credit Suisse's earlier bonus system imposed a cost on executives who quit soon after getting the payouts, the prospect of having to pay back cash could prove a more powerful deterrent.

Credit Suisse in previous years typically paid about 25 per cent to 30 per cent of senior bankers' bonuses in cash, while more than half was in the form of stock, according to the people.

The remaining 10 per cent to 15 per cent was made up of a contin-

gent-convertible debt instrument which converts into equity when the capital ratio dips below 7 per cent. If it doesn't, the holder receives a coupon payment.

A three-year turnaround plan by chief executive officer Tidjane Thiam has been dogged by poor performance at its markets operations in Asia – a region Mr Thiam has repeatedly singled out for its growth potential.

The Asia markets business posted a loss last year. The business made a small profit on an adjusted basis, which strips out restructuring costs.

Credit Suisse's overall bonus pool for 2018 will probably be flat from the prior year, people familiar with the matter said earlier this month. BLOOMBERG

StanChart to take \$1.2b charge over US and UK probes

NEW YORK • Standard Chartered will take a US\$900 million (\$\$1.22 billion) charge tied to regulatory probes in its fourth-quarter results, a move that will erode earnings as its top executive prepares to unveil a turnaround plan.

The provision will cover the British bank's estimates for potential penalties from investigations over American sanctions violations, currency trading issues and British financial crime controls, the lender said late on Wednesday.

Standard Chartered has been bracing itself for a possible fine by the United States related to past dealings with Iran, and the charge may indicate a settlement is close.

Other global banks are grappling with soaring legal expenses too. A French court on Wednesday ordered UBS Group to pay more than US\$5 billion over a tax evasion case, the biggest fine for a Swiss bank.

While UBS said it will appeal, the penalties make up more than its entire profit for last year.

Standard Chartered shares yesterday closed 0.6 per cent lower in Hong Kong. The stock is up about 7 per cent this year, after dropping 27 per cent last year.

Its chief executive officer Bill Winters is due to present his plan to improve profitability when the bank reports full-year results on Tuesday. He may also announce a new round of cost cuts to boost a share price that is down more than 35 per cent since he took over in June 2015.

The provision could wipe out the majority of the bank's second-half profit. Mr Joseph Dickerson, an analyst at Jefferies Financial Group, said in a note this week he estimated the firm would post pre-tax profit of US\$1.4 billion in the final six months of last year, excluding litigation costs.

Standard Chartered settled a currency trading investigation last month and said it received a notice

from Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) over financial crime controls. The FCA plans to impose a penalty of £102 million (\$\$179.7 million), the London-based lender said. The bank said it is still considering its options related to the FCA's notice.

In the US, the authorities have been monitoring Standard Chartered since 2012, when the lender paid US\$667 million and entered into a deferred prosecution agreement to resolve allegations that it illegally processed transactions with Iranian parties.

The Justice Department has since extended the agreement multiple times, most recently in December, after saying the bank may have failed to disclose additional violations.

In October, Bloomberg News reported that Standard Chartered was expecting to pay a penalty of around US\$1.5 billion for allowing customers to break Iran sanctions.

Fines of that scale wouldn't materially derail the bank's ability to return capital to shareholders via dividends, Bloomberg Intelligence analysts said last month. BLOOMBERG



Chief executive officer Bill Winters (above) is due to present his plan to improve profitability when the bank reports full-year results on Tuesday. He may also announce a new round of cost cuts.



OVERSEA-CHINESE BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED
(Incorporated in Singapore)
(Company Reg. No: 19320032W)

NOTICE OF BOOKS CLOSURE AND APPLICATION OF SCRIP DIVIDEND SCHEME TO FY18 FINAL DIVIDEND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books and Register of Members of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited (the **Bank**) will be closed from 5.00 p.m. on **6 May 2019** up to (and including) 8 May 2019 for the purpose of determining Members' entitlements to the final one-tier tax-exempt dividend for the financial year ended 31 December 2018 (the **FY18 Final Dividend**) of 23 cents for every ordinary share held, subject to the approval of Members for the FY18 Final Dividend at the Annual General Meeting of the Bank to be held on 29 April 2019 (**AGM**).

Duly completed registrable transfers of ordinary shares (**Shares**) received by the Bank's share registrar, M & C Services Private Limited, 112 Robinson Road #05-01, Singapore 068902 up to 5.00 p.m. on **6 May 2019** will be registered before entitlements to the FY18 Final Dividend are determined. Members whose securities accounts with The Central Depository (Pte) Limited are credited with Shares as at 5.00 p.m. on **6 May 2019** will rank for the FY18 Final Dividend.

The Bank's Scrip Dividend Scheme (the **Scheme**) will be applicable to the FY18 Final Dividend, subject to the approval of Members at the AGM for the FY18 Final Dividend and for the allotment and issue of new Shares pursuant to the Scheme. Under the Scheme, Members will have an option to elect to receive new Shares in lieu of the cash amount of the FY18 Final Dividend. For the purposes of the application of the Scheme to the FY18 Final Dividend, the price at which each new Share is to be issued will be set at a 10% discount to the average of the daily volume weighted average prices of the Shares during the price determination period between **3 May 2019** and **6 May 2019** (both dates inclusive). The Bank will announce the Issue Price on **7 May 2019**.

Members who wish to receive the FY18 Final Dividend in CASH need not take any action, provided they have not previously made permanent elections under the Scheme to receive new Shares in lieu of cash. Members who have previously made such permanent elections under the Scheme (and whose permanent elections have not been cancelled or deemed cancelled) will receive new Shares in lieu of cash for the FY18 Final Dividend if they do not take any action.

The FY18 Final Dividend will be paid on or about **24 June 2019**, and the new Shares are expected to be listed and credited on or about **25 June 2019**.

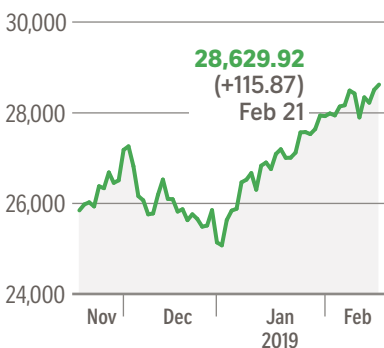
Members should note the following important dates and events. In the event of a change, the Bank will publicly announce such change through a SGXNET announcement posted on the website of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited at <http://www.sgx.com>. All references to dates and times above are made by reference to Singapore dates and times.

INDICATIVE DATE	EVENT
5.00 p.m. on 30 April 2019 (<i>Tuesday</i>)	Last day for Overseas Members to provide Singapore addresses
2 May 2019 (<i>Thursday</i>)	Last day on which Shares quoted cum dividend
3 May 2019 (<i>Friday</i>)	Shares quoted ex-dividend
Between 3 to 6 May 2019 (both dates inclusive) (<i>Friday to Monday</i>)	Period for determining the Issue Price
5.00 p.m. on 6 May 2019 (<i>Monday</i>)	Books Closure Date
7 May 2019 (<i>Tuesday</i>)	Announcement of Issue Price
On or about 16 May 2019 (<i>Thursday</i>)	Despatch of Election Notices and Scrip Dividend Entitlement Advices
6 June 2019 (<i>Thursday</i>)	Last day for eligible Members to submit Election Notices and Notices of Cancellation
On or about 24 June 2019 (<i>Monday</i>)	Dividend Payment Date
On or about 25 June 2019 (<i>Tuesday</i>)	Listing and crediting of New Shares

Further details on the Scheme may be found at www.ocbc.com, under Investor Information/Dividend History.

Peter Yeoh
Secretary
Singapore
22 February 2019

Hang Seng



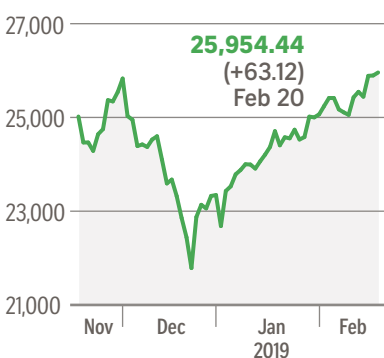
Shanghai Comp



Nikkei 225



Dow Jones



BullsAndBears

STI closes flat amid bank losses

Local remisiers' outlook dampened by retail equity shake-up at DBS

Lynette Tan

Signs of progress in the US-China trade talks kicked some life into many regional markets yesterday, but local investors were unmoved.

The lack of enthusiasm nudged the Straits Times Index (STI) down 0.01 per cent or 0.47 point to 3,277.91, with the 201 gainers pipping the 190 losers on trade of 1.34 billion shares worth \$1.16 billion.

The banks were not much help to the STI yesterday. DBS Bank led the losses, down 1.08 per cent to \$24.81 on trade of six million shares.

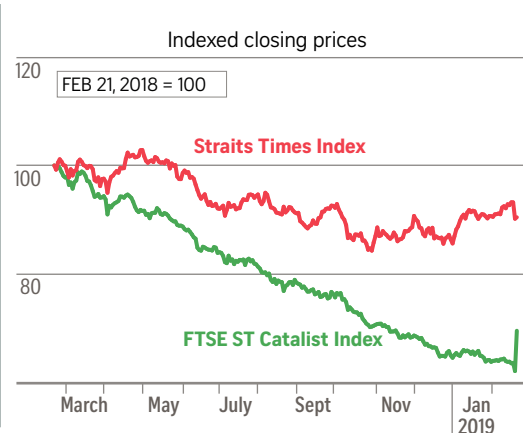
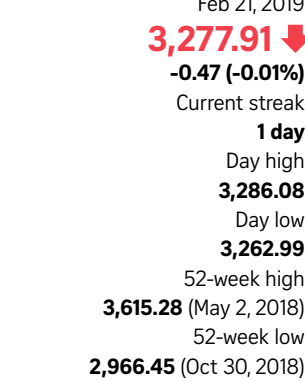
More news emerged yesterday that DBS will transfer its retail equity trading under DBS Vickers to the bank by the end of the year, leaving the securities and derivatives arm to serve institutional clients.

One remisier said some of his colleagues aged 62 or older are "anxious about the job they have been doing for the past 20 to 30 years", while others voiced concerns over the new job scope.

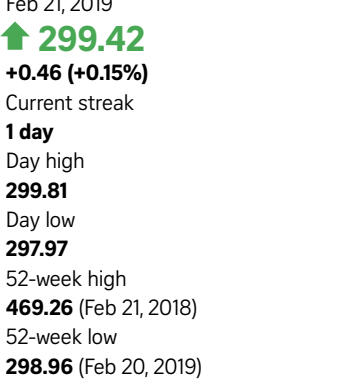
But some brokers watching from the sidelines said they saw the change coming.

Maybank Kim Eng's Mr Thilan Wickramasinghe said the moves are consistent with DBS' intention to return to its commercial banking roots to develop interest and wealth management incomes.

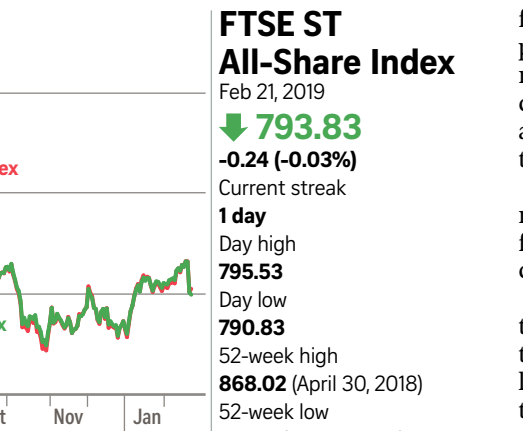
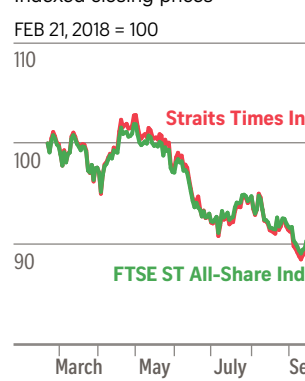
Straits Times Index



FTSE ST Catalyst Index



FTSE ST All-Share Index



Moreover, he believes that the traditional retail broking business, which uses self-employed remisiers, is "declining" as retail customers move to online trading.

Perhaps some of the nervousness has spread to OCBC Bank and United Overseas Bank, both of

which announce fourth-quarter earnings today.

OCBC was down 0.86 per cent to \$11.57, also on trade of six million shares, while United Overseas Bank closed unchanged at \$25.98 with two million shares changing hands.

Downward pressure also came

from ST Engineering, whose fourth-quarter profit dropped 26 per cent after one-off charges and missed analyst expectations. The counter closed 1.59 per cent down at \$3.71 with about 12 million shares traded.

Property group City Developments posted a 54.7 per cent fall in fourth-quarter earnings, but the counter rose 0.11 per cent to \$9.54.

OCBC analyst Andy Wong said the results were in line with expectations, adding that CDL plans to launch five projects in Singapore this year.

DBS Equity Research initiated coverage on EC World Reit yesterday with a "buy" call and an 86-cent target price.

Analysts believe the firm, which reports results today, is an underappreciated stock trading at attractive valuations. Its units closed unchanged at 74.5 cents.

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Logistics start-up Lalamove raises \$406m

Logistics service provider Lalamove has raised US\$300 million (\$405.9 million) in Series D funds.

The financing rounds were led by Hillhouse Capital and Sequoia China. Other investors in the rounds included Eastern Bell Venture Capital, PV Capital and existing investors such as Xiang He Capital and Mind-Works Ventures.

The new funds will be used to strengthen Lalamove's technological and innovation capabilities in China and South-east Asia, and to support its expansion into India and into new businesses such as car sales.

Lalamove was founded in Hong Kong in 2013 and operates in 11 cities in Asia outside of China, including Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. It anticipates having a presence in "many more cities in the near future", with a strong focus on India.

Sequoia China managing partner Neil Shen said: "Driven by technological innovation, well-run operations, efficient platform matching and quality service, Lalamove has been able to differentiate itself from other players and secure a leading position in the industry."

Hillhouse Capital chief executive Lei Zhang said: "Technology is redefining what can be achieved in the logistics industry, and Lalamove's outstanding management team has placed it at the forefront of this trend. We believe it is well-positioned to bring more efficient and convenient freight services to the sector."

Straits Times Index stocks

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CURRENCY LAST TRADED SALE	+OR-	'VOL '000	GROSS YIELD%	P/BV
280	245	Ascendas Reit	278	+1	9432	5.8	1.4
192	161	CapitaCom Trust	190	+1	11798	4.6	1
380	298	Capitaland	350	+7	13038	3.4	0.8
245	196	CityMall Trust	244	unch	6857	4.7	1.2
1359	780	CityDev	954 cd	+1	2275	2.1	0.9
251	196	ComfortDelGro	243 cd	unch	10080	4.3	2
3128	2265	DBS Grp	2481 cd	-27	5993	4.8	1.4
994	767	DairyFarm USD	US\$894	-6	266	2.3	-
133	85.5	Genting Sing	111	+1	41208	3.2	1.8
37	22.5	Golden Agri-Res	27	+1	28305	3	0.7
7205	1099	HPH Trust USD	US\$24	unch	2778	3.1	0.4
4078	3155	JMH USD	US\$7094	+9	314	2.3	0.8
3819	2766	JSH USD	US\$4005	+13	222	0.8	0.5
835	567	Jardine C&C	3648	-7	252	3.2	1.8
1404	1036	Keppel Corp	635 cd	+3	3788	4.7	1
564	455	OCBC Bank	1157	-10	5927	3.2	1.2
786	672	SATS	515	+1	1204	3.5	3.6
1184	914	SGX	782	-4	1813	3.8	9.8
292	231	SIA	1008	+6	1455	4	1
378	321	ST Engineering	247	-2	2148	5.3	1.1
1333	243	Semcorp Ind	371 cd	unch	12551	4	5.2
283	283	Singtel	206	-1	5130	3.5	3.6
88	57.5	ThaiBev	80	+1	15440	6.7	1.7
3037	2380	UOB	684	unch	2126	3.8	1.3
898	591	UOL	1615	+5	1201	3.7	2.1
2965	1320	Venture Corp	339	+4	4767	2.9	1
340	297	Wilmar Intl	144	+2	28030	3.1	1
154	84	YZJ Shipbldg SGD	144	+2	28030	3.1	1

FTSE ST Large & Mid-Cap Index stocks

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CURRENCY LAST TRADED SALE	+OR-	'VOL '000	GROSS YIELD%	P/BV
280	245	Ascendas Reit	278	+1	9432	5.8	1.4
120	105	Ascott Reit	115	+1	3433	6.2	1
74.5	59	Bumitama Agri	68.5	-0.5	131	11	16
178	143	CDL HTrust	160	unch	1870	-	1
192	161	CapitaCom Trust	190	+1	11798	4.6	1
380	298	Capitaland	350	+7	13038	3.4	0.8
245	196	CityMall Trust	244	unch	6857	4.7	1.2
164	133	CapitaChina Tr	145	unch	1390	7	0.9
1359	780	CityDev	954 cd	+1	2275	2.1	0.9
251	196	ComfortDelGro	243 cd	unch	10080	4.3	2
3128	2265	DBS Grp	2481 cd	-27	5993	4.8	1.4
994	767	DairyFarm USD	US\$894	-6	266	2.3	-
72.5	59	Far East HTrust	64.5 xd	unch	751	-	0.7
183	150	First Resources	170	+1	345	4	2.2
232	212	Fraser's Cpt Tr	231	unch	1051	5.2	11.1
114	101	Fraser's L&I Tr	108	-3	9637	6.3	1.2
133	85.5	Genting Sing	111	+1	41208	3.2	1.8
37	22.5	Golden Agri-Res	27	+1	28305	3	0.7
224	167	GuocoLand Ltd	188	+2	124	3.7	0.6
37	23	HPH Trust USD	US\$24	unch	2778	3.1	0.4
744	568	HongkongLand USD	US\$725	+10	2788	2.8	0.3
7205	1099	JMH USD	US\$7094	+9	314	2.3	0.8
4078	3155	JSH USD	US\$4005	+13	222	0.8	0.5
3819	2766	Jardine C&C	3648	-7	252	3.2	1.8
58	44.5	Keppel Infra Tr	50	-0.5	3033	7.4	1.8
835	567	Keppel Corp	635 cd	+3	3788	4.7	1
125	108	Keppel Reit	123	-1	11012	4.5	0.9
215	151	MI	206 cd	unch	626	5.4	3.7
273	170	Man Oriental USD	US\$204	-3	23	1.5	1.5
186	152	Mapletree Com Tr	176	-2	6162	5.1	1.2
206	184	Mapletree Ind Tr	199	+1	3293	5.9	1.3
140	118	Mapletree Log Tr	138	-1	8184	5.5	1.2
128	107	Mapletree NAC Tr	124	-1	7810	6	0.9
83	73	NetLink NBN Tr	80	+0.5	2448	-	1
1404	1036	OCBC Bank	1157	-10	5927	3.2	1.2
197	136	OU	160	+1	363	1.9	0.4
87	64.5	OUH HTrust	71.5	-0.5	1709	-	1
250	157	Olam Intl	197	+4	1289	3.8	1
59	28	Oxley	33.5	unch	5025	4.5	1
287	256	ParkwayLife Reit	282	+3	741	4.6	1.5
121	98	Raffles Medical	112	+1	583	2	2.6
564	455	SATS	515	+1	1204	3.5	3.6
786	672	SGX	782	-4	1813	3.8	9.8
1184	914	SIA	1008	+6	1455	4	1
336	220	SIA Engineering	238	+2	390	5.5	1.8
292	231	SPH	247	-2	2148	5.3	1.1
103	98	SPHREIT	102	+1	380	5.4	1.1
378	321	ST Engineering	371 cd	unch	12551	4	5.2
333	243	Semcorp Ind	266 cd	-6	5130	3.5	3.6
254	149	Semcorp Marine	170	+2	11593	-	1.5
57.5	39	Silverlake Axis	53.5 cd	-15	5006	5.6	7.8
142	88.5	SingPost	103	+1	3807	3.4	1.4
358	283	Singtel	306	+1	15440	6.7	1.7
254	158	StarHub	161	-2	7352	9.9	5
73.5	63.5	Starhill Gbl Reit	70	-0.5	2184	6.5	0.8
199	163	Suntec Reit	191	-1	5651	5.2	0.9
88	57.5	ThaiBev	80	+1	24459	0.8	3.9
10.2	3.7	Thomson Medical	7.9	-0.1	19292	-	2.9
3037	2380	UOB	2598	unch	2126	3.8	1.3
898	591	UOL	684	+5	1313	2.6	0.6
2965	1320	Venture Corp	1615	-1	1021	3.7	2.1
340	297	Wilmar Intl	339	+4	4767	2.9	1
225	193	Wing Tai	204	unch	210	3.9	0.5
154	84	YZJ Shipbldg SGD	144	+2	28030	3.1	1
182	116	Yanlord Land	140	-2	2117	4.9	0.6

FTSE ST Small-Cap Index stocks

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	COMPANY	LAST SALE	+OR-	'VOL '000	GROSS YIELD%	P/BV
145	129	AIMSAMP Cap Reit	139	unch	47	7.4	1
68.5	48	Accordia Golf Tr	58.5	+0.5	1912	6.6	0.7
86.5	74	Ascendas-hTrust	85.5	-0.5	312	-	0.9
119	99	Ascendas-iTrust	114	+1	877	5.4	1.3
58	12.2	Asian Pay TV Tr	13.2	unch	2436	49.2	0.2
64	48	Banyan Tree	61	+1	147	1.6	0.8
333	115	Best World	271	halt	-	1.5	9.7
85.5	76	Boustead	80.5	-0.5	36	3.7	1.2
126	79.5	BreadTalk	87 cd	-1	31	1.7	3
632	521	Bukit Sembawang	573	+4	35	3.1	1.1
85	65.5	Cache Log Trust	71.5	-0.5	1670	8.3	1.1
52	39.5	Centurion	41	-0.5	115	6.1	0.7
166	104	China Aviation	134	+5	1885	3.4	1.1
46	29.5	China Everbright	35	unch	4429	2.8	0.7
165	90.5	China Sunshine	132	unch	980	2.3	1.5
103	64	Chip Eng Seng	72	+2	5059	5.6	0.6
53.5	31.5	Cosco	36	+0.5	2305	-	1.5
700	302	Delong	563	-9	10	-	0.6
27.5	17.5	Duty Free Intl	19.6	-0.3	50	9.4	1.2
77	67.5	EC World Reit	74.5	unch	306	8.1	0.9
59	47	ESR-REIT	53.5	+0.5	4004	7.2	1.1
140	92	First Reit	108	+2	1332	8	1.1
152	135	Fraser's Com Tr	148	-1	1514	6.5	0.9
79.5	66.5	Fraser's HTrust	72.5	-1	810	-	1
25.5	16.4	Geo Energy Res	18.8	unch	176	5.3	1.1
91	70.5	HRnetGroup	78.5	+0.5	1403	2.9	2.4
67.5	52	Health Mgt Intl	55 xd	-0.5	60	0.6	5.3
279	73	Hi-P Intl	105	+5.5	9846	23.8	1.6
283	252	Hong Leong Fin	271	-1	31	4.8	0.7
80.5	71	IREIT Global	77 cd	+0.5	244	7.3	1
37	18.3	Indofood Agri	22	+1	792	-	0.3
84	43	Japfa	84	+1	4160	0.6	1.6
76.5	49	KSH	53	+1	40	4.2	0.9
85	53	Kep-KBS Reit USD	66.5	unch	1888	9.4	0.6
149	128	Keppel DC Reit	147	+1	5479	5	1.4
190	132	Keppel T&T	188	-1	165	-	1.2

ST Engineering showcasing its DroNet at the Singapore Airshow last year. The company's electronics sector racked up record earnings of \$186.5 million, up 10 per cent on the previous year.
ST FILE PHOTO



ST Engineering's Q4 profit falls 26% on one-off charges

Revenue rises 5% to \$1.77b; pre-tax profit would have been 7% higher if tax hit excluded

A one-off tax hit helped send earnings diving at Singapore Technologies (ST) Engineering in the fourth quarter.

Net profit came in at \$124.5 million for the three months to Dec 31, 26 per cent lower than the \$168.1 million recorded in the same period a year earlier.

The main culprit was one-off pre-tax charges of \$25 million related to portfolio rationalisation and its acquisition of General Electric's MRA Systems.

If the one-time charges are excluded, pre-tax profit would have been 7 per cent higher at \$185.6 million.

And net profit would have risen 1 per cent to \$149.1 million if the previous year's one-off favourable United States tax adjustment of \$20 million was also factored out, the

company said.

Revenue for the quarter rose 5 per cent to \$1.77 billion.

The full-year numbers were more robust. Net profit dipped 1.7 per cent to \$494.2 million for the 12 months, due to a weaker effort from its land systems sector, one-time costs for early redemption of its medium-term notes and lower contribution from its Miltope computer business.

Full-year revenue grew 3 per cent to \$6.7 billion.

Its land systems sector's full-year net profit fell 39 per cent to \$52.9 million. This was partly due to the divestment impact of its road construction division in India and full impairment charges for its road building and auto maintenance repair and overhaul unit in Brazil.

Aerospace net profit was flat at

AT A GLANCE

REVENUE: \$1.77 billion (+5%)

NET PROFIT: \$124.5 million (-26%)

DIVIDEND PER SHARE: 10 cents

\$244.6 million while the electronics sector racked up record earnings of \$186.5 million, up 10 per cent on the previous year.

This was due in part to higher gross profit in line with increased revenue and lower operating expenses.

Marine recorded a net profit of \$45.2 million, up 67 per cent on the back of higher gross profits and lower operating expenses.

Earnings per share for the full year was 15.85 cents against 16.13 cents for 2017, while net asset value per share stood at 72 cents,

up from 71.09 cents.

A final dividend of 10 cents a share has been declared. An interim dividend of five cents a share paid on Aug 28 last year brings the total payout to 15 cents a share, unchanged from the preceding year.

President and chief executive Vincent Chong said: "We continue to invest in growth initiatives... including data analytics and cyber security to drive long-term sustainable growth, backed by a healthy level of order book that provides revenue visibility for the next few years."

ST Engineering shares closed 1.59 per cent down at \$3.71 yesterday after the results were announced.

First Sponsor to buy hotel in Dresden, Germany for \$76m

Property firm First Sponsor plans to snap up controlling shares of the Westin Bellevue Dresden hotel, located in Dresden, Germany, with acquisition cost valued at about €49.5 million (\$76 million), it said yesterday.

First Sponsor plans to buy 94.9 per cent of two German companies that own and operate the hotel, with the remaining held by Event Hotels Group.

Event Hotels is a European hotel operator that was the group's joint

venture partner for the Bilderberg portfolio in the Netherlands acquired in August 2017. The acquisition cost including estimated transaction costs.

First Sponsor and its partner, Event Hotels, expect to spend more than €10 million in the "near future" to refurbish the property.

The Westin Bellevue Dresden hotel is a freehold property located between the old and new towns of Dresden, Germany.

The 340-bedroom hotel has a

main wing built in the 17th century.

The hotel houses more than 1,800 sq m of meeting and event space equipped with modern meeting facilities.

The group said the acquisition is an opportunity to build up a larger recurrent income stream for its property holding business segment, and to further improve its geographical diversification.

Shares of First Sponsor closed on Wednesday at \$1.27.

Interbank currency rates

Currencies	Against \$	Feb 21	Against US\$	Feb 21
	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer
US\$/US\$ to one unit of foreign currency:				
Australian dollar	0.9618	0.9628	0.7113	0.7116
Canadian dollar	1.0249	1.0259	0.7583	0.7580
Euro	1.5331	1.5342	1.1338	1.1339
NZ dollar	0.9221	0.9232	0.6819	0.6823
Sterling pound	1.7637	1.7654	1.3043	1.3048
US dollar	1.3522	1.3530	-	-
US\$/US\$ to 100 units of foreign currency:				
Chinese renminbi	20.1397	20.1540	14.8940	14.8958
Danish kroner	20.5464	20.5617	15.1948	15.1971
Hong Kong dollar	17.23	17.24	12.7429	12.7432
Indian Rupee	190	190	14.058	14.060
Indonesian rupiah	0.0096	0.0096	0.0071	0.0071
Japanese yen	122.11	122.19	0.9030	0.9031
Korean won	0.1200	0.1203	0.0088	0.0089
Malaysian ringgit	3.314	3.320	24.5098	24.5399
New Taiwan dollar	4.3860	4.3929	3.2436	3.2468
Norwegian krone	15.6902	15.7086	11.6035	11.6102
Philippine peso	2.5929	2.5964	1.9175	1.9190
Saudi riyal	36.0539	36.0781	26.6631	26.6652
Swedish krona	14.4692	14.4839	10.7005	10.7050
Swiss franc	1.350714	1.351648	99.8901	99.9001
Thai Baht	4.3354	4.3393	3.2062	3.2072

Source: OCBC

Government securities

GOVERNMENT BONDS						
Period	Issue code	Coupon rate (%)	Maturity	Close Bid	High	Day's Low
2-Year	NY05100N	3.250%	01-Sep-20	101.95	101.95	101.95
5-Year	NS19100A	2.000%	01-Feb-24	100.08	0.00	0.00
10-Year	NX18100A	2.625%	01-May-28	104.01	104.25	104.25
15-Year	NZ13100V	3.375%	01-Sep-33	112.3	112.80	112.50
20-Year	NZ16100X	2.250%	01-Aug-36	97.63	98.12	98.12
30-Year	NA16100H	2.750%	01-Mar-46	103.55	104.40	103.95

Note: Based on latest issue

Source: Monetary Authority of Singapore

MSCI INDICES

Feb 20	Index	In local curr %	% dy	% yr
		Change	Change	Change
World Preliminary	1593.0	0.3	10.5	
EAPE Preliminary	1097.4	0.5	8.9	
Europe Preliminary	1533.9	0.6	9.2	
Australia	1221.5	-0.2	7.0	
Austria Preliminary	559.8	1.7	12.4	
Belgium Preliminary	1034.1	1.5	13.0	
Canada Preliminary	2046.7	0.5	11.8	
Denmark Preliminary	8129.1	0.6	9.8	
Finland Preliminary	724.6	0.4	11.0	
France Preliminary	1875.8	0.6	9.5	
Germany Preliminary	910.1	0.8	7.9	
Greece Preliminary	47.5	1.2	9.4	
India	1242.3	1.3	-1.6	
Indonesia	7302.1	0.5	3.2	
Ireland Preliminary	198.4	0.8	10.7	
Israel Preliminary	253.5	-1.1	9.9	
Italy Preliminary	687.7	0.4	10.5	
Japan	965.2	0.5	8.1	
Korea	669.6	1.4	10.9	
Malaysia	599.6	1.3	3.1	
Netherlands Preliminary	1638.2	0.1	12.4	
New Zealand	141.0	0.6	6.3	
Norway Preliminary	2972.5	-0.3	6.7	
Pakistan	406.2	1.3	13.8	
Philippines	1346.0	1.5	6.6	
Portugal Preliminary	88.1	0.8	9.1	
Singapore	1701.4	0.7	6.7	
Singapore Free	365.8	0.7	6.7	

Source: MSCI

Company Briefs

Genting Singapore

Gaming company Genting Singapore yesterday posted a 12 per cent rise in net profit to \$150.2 million for its fourth quarter ended Dec 31.

This was thanks to "encouraging" performances in both its gaming and non-gaming segments, despite economic uncertainties and intensifying competition, the company said.

Earnings per share rose to 1.25 cents for the quarter from 1.1 cents in the corresponding year-ago period. This came on the back of a 15 per cent increase in revenue to \$664.8 million in the fourth quarter.

The group's net asset value per share rose to 64.6 cents as at end-2018, from 61.8 cents as at end-2017.

For the full year, net profit improved by 10 per cent to reach \$755.4 million, while revenue rose 6 per cent to \$2.5 billion.

The group attributed the improved bottom line to ongoing productivity initiatives.

"Excluding the prior year's one-off gain of \$96.3 million... our net profit registered strong 28 per cent year-on-year growth," it said.

Genting Singapore said its marketing efforts towards the regional premium mass segment yielded positive results while its rolling business grew. "Meanwhile, our non-gaming businesses also experienced growth in both visitation and spending per pax (passenger)..."

Hi-P International

Mainboard-listed contract manufacturer Hi-P International plans to diversify its customer base and keep expanding outside of China, as various challenges beset the smartphone industry, which it serves.

Fourth-quarter net profit fell 24.9 per cent year on year to \$44.8 million in the three months to Dec 31, according to quarterly results released yesterday.

Hi-P, which also has clients in tablets and other consumer electronics, posted revenue of \$441.9 million for the period, down 10.2 per cent on the previous year, due to "a decline in market demand from various segments".

Besides the lower turnover, profit margins also suffered from more competitive pricing, lower economies of scale and labour cost growth on a higher minimum wage in China. Hi-P has 12 factories across the globe, including in five Chinese cities - Shanghai, Chengdu, Xiamen, Suzhou and Nantong.

Earnings per share fell to 5.56 cents from 7.39 cents previously.

For the full year, Hi-P's net profit was down 16.9 per cent to \$100.9 million on a 1.7 per cent dip in revenue to \$1.4 billion.

THE STRAITS TIMES

COMMUNICATIONS COURSE

Managing Crisis Communication in the Digital Age

Information flows readily and can go viral quickly. Learn how to manage the fallout when a public complaint arises or an event does not go as planned. Public feedback about a poorly managed event can spread quickly and hurt the reputation of businesses. While issues and crises cannot be completely avoided, leaders can learn to be better prepared to manage such situations.

In this course, business owners and communications professionals can find out how to:

- Take preventive steps to avoid a PR fallout from a crisis
- Prioritise online and offline communication
- Communicate as a crisis unfolds
- Write a post-crisis incident report for management

Date: April 2

Time: 10am to 6pm

(including lunch and tea breaks)

Venue: Level 8 Tower Block

SPH News Centre

1000 Toa Payoh North

Fee: \$648 a participant

(GST included)

6319-5076

STmasterclass@sph.com.sg

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The trainer

A former Straits Times journalist, Ng Wei Joo specialises in corporate and crisis communications and has worked in various companies and public relations agencies for the past two decades. As a PR consultant, he works with in-house communication teams and advises senior management members. He was also the President of the Institute of Public Relations of Singapore (IPRS) from 2009-2013.

news with benefits

THE STRAITS TIMES

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"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalms 23:6



Chong Liueh Ling

Age: 83

Was called home to be with the Lord on 20 February 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Beloved Wife: Foo Baik Har

Sons:

Chong Sin Cheong
Chong Chin Cheong
Dr. Chong Cher Cheong

Daughters-in-law:

Anny Pang Mei Seung
Bernice Teoh Ee Hui
Phua Siew Yen

Daughters:

Chong Sheau Chyn
Chong Yeu Chyn
Chong Bee Chyn
Chong Sze Chyn

Granddaughters:

Sara Chong Wen Li
Claire Chong Wen Lin
Esther Chong Hui Lin
Phoebe Chong Hui En

Grandson-in-law:

Sibi Zhang

Grandsons:

Brent Chong Wen Jie
Dylan Chong Hui Jie

Siblings, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Wake is held at 7 Siglap Road, Mandarin Gardens (Carpark), Singapore 448909.

Night service on Friday 22 February 2019 at 8.00pm.

Cortege leaves on Saturday 23 February 2019 at 11.45am for Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation at 12.45pm.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.' John 11:25



Ding Lay Lee nee Lim Lay Lee

Age: 93

Went home to be with the Lord on 20 February 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Husband: Ding Siew Ngie (deceased)

Sons:

Ding Yew Hoong
Ding Yew Moong (deceased)
Ding Yew Yoong
Grandchildren:
Ding Si Yan
April Ding
Jamie Ding
Ding Si Rui
Ding Si Han

Daughters-in-law:

Terri McLaughlin
Christina Chua
Ng Tee Im
Grandchildren-in-law:
Lau Lee Min

Ivan Lee

and Yap Siong Ngo

Wake services will be held at Singapore Funeral Parlour (Level 5) 91 Tampines Link S528746, on 22 & 23 February 2019 at 8pm.

Encoffining service will be on 24 February, 1.45pm. Cortege will leave at 2pm.

Funeral service and cremation will be at Mandai Crematorium Hall 2 at 3pm.

"The Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not want....and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6



JOSEPH SEAH KIM HOCK

Age: 94

was called home to be with the Lord on 21 February 2019 leaving behind loved ones.

Son:

Derek Seah
Daughter:
Vivien Seah Wong

Grandsons:

Dr Marcus Wong
Malcolm Wong
Dominic Seah

Granddaughters:

Jasmine Seah
Joanna Seah

Great grandsons:

Dillion Wong
Russell Wong
Matthias Wong
Immanuel Wong
Teddy Wong

Great granddaughters:

Jerica Wong
Melissa Wong

A one day wake will be held on 23 Feb 2019 Saturday, from 10am at The Life Celebrant, Blk 89 Geylang Bahru Industrial Estate #01-2738 Singapore 339697 (5 mins walk from Geylang Bahru MRT Station).

Cortege leaves on 23 Feb 2019 (Saturday) at 5pm for short service at Mandai Crematorium Hall 3 and thereafter for cremation at 6pm.

With Deepest Sympathy & Sincere Condolences to The Family of the Late



Zulkefli Bin Mohamed

From
The Management
and Staff of

SingHealth DukeNUS
ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTRE

Sengkang General Hospital
SingHealth

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want... and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23



Perumayee d/o Karuppan

Age: 78

Was called home to be with the Lord on 20 February 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Late Husband: Sinnaiya

Children & Spouses:
Balakrishnan & Chelvi
Veeran & Shanithi
Subramaniam & Sarojini
Palaniammal & Renganathan

11 Grandchildren,
all relatives and friends.

Wake is held at Block 424A Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3, (MPH) Singapore 560424.

Cortege leaves on Friday 22 February 2019 at 6.00pm for Funeral Service at Church Of The Epiphany, 407 Jalan Kayu, Singapore 739512 at 6.45pm; thereafter to Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation at 8.45pm.



YAP SUSAN

Age: 50

passed away peacefully on 21 Feb 2019, leaving behind loved ones.

Husband: Spencer Tan Chee Keong

Daughter:

Tan Wan Shyan

Sister:

Yap Sue Sin

Brother-in-law:

Tan Chee Meng

Spouse:

Cheng Heng Puay

Spouse:

Yvonne Kee Gek Hong

Nephews, Nieces and all relatives.

Wake is held at Blk 667 Jalan Damai, Singapore 410667.

Cortege will leave on 24 Feb 2019 (Sun) at 4.15pm for Mandai Crematorium Hall 2 for cremation at 5.15pm.



NG SIOW KHIM 黄绍琴

Age: 90

passed away peacefully on 20 February 2019

Husband: Lim Soo Poh (Deceased)

Sons:

George Lim Eng Juak
Lim Hong Choon Daniel

Daughter-in-law:

Chris Tang Yit Ngoh

Daughter:

Lim Chet Siew

Son-in-law:

Rodney Chng Meng Huat

(Mrs Chng Chet Siew)

Grandchildren and Grandsons-in-law:

Eugene Lim, Audrey Ee-Lim & Colin Ee
Chng Leon, Chng Nina & Aloysius Chong

Great-Grandchildren:

Ayden Ee, Asher Ee & Annabel Ee
Hailey Chong & Harper Chong

Wake is held at HDB Link Building Block 83A Commonwealth Close S142083.

Cortege will leave on Sunday 24 February 2019 at 2.30pm for Mandai Crematorium Hall 3 for cremation at 3.45pm. Tel: 96698601 / 90011409



TAN TAI CHONG

Age: 71

passed away peacefully on 19 February 2019. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Wife: Chen Yuk Yin

Sons:

Tan Aik Meng Desmond
Tan Aik Boon

Daughter:

Tan Ai Cheng Jessie

Grandsons:

Tan Qing Hao Edric
Chua Zhao Qi Clarence

Daughter-in-law:

Lam Teng Chen

Son-in-law:

Chua Kian Ngapi

Granddaughters:

Tan Yu Yun Erica
Chua Yun Xuan Charmaine

Body is resting at Blk 175, Ang Mo Kio Ave 4 S'pore 560175. Tel: 90129795 / 90185682

Cortege will leave on Saturday, 23 February 2019 at 8.00am for Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery, 88 Bright Hill Rd, S'pore 574117 for cremation at 9.00am.



Periasamy s/o M. Ramasamy

Age: 75

Passed away peacefully on 20 February 2019, dearly missed and remembered by loved ones.

Wife: Prasanna d/o Kuppannam

Sons & Daughters-in-law:

Ramesh & Devi

Prakash & Povanasari

Suresh & Shalini

Grandchildren,
all relatives and friends.

Appa is resting at Block 317 Woodlands Street 31 #07-174, Singapore 730317.

Tel: 9734 1414 / 8198 4873

Cortege will leave on Friday 22 February 2019 at 6.00pm for Mandai Crematorium Hall 1 for cremation at 7.15pm.

Thalai Thavasam In Loving Memory Of



Mr S.P. Mati Yalagan

(Former Seletar)

Departed on 6th March 2018

Deeply missed and forever remembered by wife, sons, mother, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, in-laws, relatives and host of friends.

Evening Thalai Thavasam prayers will be held at Sri Sivan Temple, 24 Geylang East Ave 2, S389752 at 7.30pm on the 23rd Feb 2019.

Please treat this as a personal invitation. Contact Prakash 63884705 / 96377090



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*Our Deepest Sympathy
and Heartfelt Condolences*

to

**Puan Sri Dato' Sri Molly Seah Soh Seng,
Dato' Marco Low Peng Kiat**

and the bereaved family

on the demise of

TAN SRI DATO' LOW KENG HUAT

our beloved Founder and Chairman

on 20th February 2019

From

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff



Low Keng Huat (Singapore) Limited

SPORT

\$36K

SOUTH KOREAN CURLING COACHES
EMBEZZLED TEAM'S PRIZE MONEY C9

The Straits Times Athlete Of The Year 2018

ABILITY TO INSPIRE ‘EDGES IT’

Goh lauded for leading bowling team to surprise bronzes at Asiad and world c’ships

Wang Meng Meng

As it had been since 2009, 11 editions and counting, the Singapore sports fraternity gathered to honour its finest at The Straits Times Athlete of the Year award presented by 100Plus.

Inspirational athletes and acts of sportsmanship were celebrated at the ceremony yesterday afternoon at the Shangri-La Hotel.

When his name was read out, the 190 guests applauded as Muhammad Jaris Goh was named the winner of the main award. The 24-year-old had been the driving force behind the Singapore men’s bowling team’s success last year.

St Andrew’s Secondary hockey captain Sean See, whose act of sportsmanship went viral on social media, got a similar reception when he was presented with the ST Young Athlete of the Year trophy.

Both winners, and all nominees, also received 100Plus hampers and commemorative plaques.

Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu lauded the nominees, saying: “You have won medals, set new records, overcome



ST Athlete of the Year Jaris Goh with (from left) ST sports editor Lee Yulin, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu and Jennifer See, managing director, Singapore & YFI Malaysia, F&N Foods Singapore. ST PHOTO: GAVIN FOO

obstacles, and triumphed over setbacks. Above all, you have demonstrated great sportsmanship and dedication to sport and all the values sport represents.”

Goh guided the men to an unprecedented bronze at the World Men’s Championships and another

bronze at the Asiad last year.

ST sports editor Lee Yulin said that it was tough for the seven-member judging panel to choose between the kegler and the four other nominees – paddler Yu Mengyu, shooter Martina Veloso and swimmers Toh Wei Soong and Joseph

Schooling.

She explained: “It was hard to distinguish among the nominees for the Athlete of the Year award, who all won medals at major Games.

“But, when one considers the impact of their achievement on their own sport and the inspiration that

it would provide to the wider fraternity, then Jaris just edges it.

“His ability to inspire the team to two significant breakthroughs was a key reason why he won it.”

Goh said: “I dedicate this award to my parents who have supported my pursuit of sporting excellence; Jessie Phua, president of SBF (Singapore Bowling Federation); all national coaches; the SBF high-performance and secretariat team.

“Special thanks to my teammates at the 2018 Asian Games and World Men’s Championships as I could not have had my achievements without them. I treasure their friendship, camaraderie and support.”

While Sean had no trophies and medals to show for his 2018 season, the 16-year-old distinguished himself with his sportsmanship, even if his team lost a vital game.

At the Schools National B Division hockey bronze-medal match last March, he had requested a goal his team scored while an opponent was injured to be chalked off. The Saints lost in a penalty shoot-out.

Jennifer See, managing director, Singapore & YFI Malaysia, F&N Foods Singapore, said of the winners and nominees: “Their dedication to bring glory to Singapore and to their sports has inspired us all and filled our hearts with pride and joy.”

meng@sph.com.sg

FINE EXAMPLE

Above all, you have demonstrated great sportsmanship and dedication to sport and all the values sport represents.



MS GRACE FU, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, praising the nominees for their achievements.

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THE STRAITS TIMES
ATHLETE AND YOUNG ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY 100 PLUS



ST Athlete of the Year Muhammad Jaris Goh taking a picture with Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu and Singapore Bowling Federation president Jessie Phua at the award ceremony at Shangri-La Hotel yesterday.
ST PHOTO: GAVIN FOO



It is all for the team, says Goh

Bowler completes award hat-trick after being crowned ST Athlete of the Year

Sazali Abdul Aziz

Even after a stellar 2018, national bowler Muhammad Jaris Goh could not have dreamt he would receive three awards in nine days.

But, yesterday at the Shangri-La Hotel, he completed a hat-trick of gongs when he picked up The Straits Times Athlete of the Year award.

Last week, he was named the Singapore Bowling Federation's (SBF) Bowler of the Year, before becoming one of four Singapore Sports School alumni to receive the Moo Soon Chong Outstanding Student-Athlete Award.

The 24-year-old Republic Polytechnic student could not stop grinning after picking up his latest accolade.

"It hasn't sunk in," said Goh, when he sat down with ST about an hour later. "When my name was announced, I thought, 'No way!'. After I got back to my seat, (SBF) president Jessie Phua even came up to me and said, 'Yes Jaris, this is real'."

Mouth agape, Goh wore a stunned expression as he made his way up to the stage to receive the ST Athlete of the Year award from Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu in the presence of 190 guests.

He had been nominated alongside Yu Mengyu (table tennis), Toh Wei Soong (para-swimming), Martina Veloso (shooting) and Joseph Schooling (swimming) for the prestigious annual award, which is the only honour that recognises both able-bodied and disabled athletes.

It was Goh's leadership and drive that fired a young Singapore men's team to a first-ever medal at the World Men's Championships and a long-overdue medal at the Asian Games, that gave him the edge.

The Republic's men's team won a bronze medal at the Asian Games in Palembang last August, a first in the event since 2006. The achievement

was even more remarkable considering Goh was the only member of the six-man team who had Asian Games experience.

The team then won an unprecedented bronze medal at the world championships in Hong Kong in December.

Also, Goh reached the round of 32 in the men's individual event at the world meet, but insists he enjoys bowling as part of a team more.

"Standing on the podium with five other men feels more significant than standing just alone," he said, dedicating the win to his teammates. "I treasure their friendship, camaraderie and support."

Phua, who has been at the helm of SBF since 2002, was delighted by Goh's achievement.

"I am over the moon with Jaris winning this very prestigious award," she said.

"It was totally deserved, for his ability to gel and lift his team members to punch way above their weight. I admire his dedication, passion, perseverance and tenacity."

Goh's ecstatic celebration in Palembang – mid-air, arms outstretched, with a euphoric expression – after his strike won Singapore the medal was one of the most eye-catching photos in Singapore sport last year.

While many figured it was simply a spontaneous expression, Goh yesterday lifted the lid on the famous picture.

"There was a little planning that went into that," he said, with a cheeky grin.

"The night before, in the hostel I was talking to my teammates Darren (Ong) and Alex (Chong) and said, 'If we really medal, the last shot I'll throw, I'll do a CR7-style (referring to Juventus and Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo) celebration'. True enough, it happened!"

"I guess that 'star jump' might be my signature move now."

msazali@sph.com.sg

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The Straits Times Athlete Of The Year 2018

DESERVED
REWARD
FOR
FAIR PLAY

Act of sportsmanship earns former Saints
hockey captain ST's Young Athlete gong

Nicole Chia

Before yesterday, The Straits Times Young Athlete of the Year 2018 nominee Sean See never thought he stood a chance of winning the award.

"I told my mum I'm never going to win because (my nomination) was for an act and not for winning something, but the other (nominees) won trophies and medals," said the 16-year-old.

But the "surprised" former St Andrew's Secondary School hockey captain beat four other nominees – footballer Putri Nur Syaliza, high

jumper Kampton Kam, floorball player John Alicante Embile and the ACS (Barker Road) table tennis team – to clinch the award, which was given out by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu at the Shangri-La Hotel yesterday.

"I guess I'm just happy I won," he added. "It's too many emotions to express right now, but I'm grateful to the people who chose me for this award and for those who nominated me."

Sean was feted for his act of sportsmanship in the B Division bronze-medal hockey match between the Saints and Northland Sec-

ondary School last March.

The Saints had control of the ball when play resumed after an injury stoppage, and one of the forwards scored from that passage of play to put the Saints 2-1 up.

After a discussion with his coach, Sean requested the umpire rule out the goal as the opponents were not ready. The game ended 1-1 and, in the penalty shoot-out, Northland won 4-3 to leave the Saints in fourth place.

ST sports editor Lee Yulin said: "Winning is not the only thing that matters, especially at the schools level."

"Sean's act of sportsmanship, especially when there was a medal at stake, is to be lauded and we are thrilled to recognise him as the Young Athlete of the Year."

Sean revealed that he became the

subject of some good-natured ribbing by his friends following media coverage of his act last year.

"Occasionally they'll still text me and say 'good job', and I'll thank them," said Sean, who will start his mechatronics course at Temasek Polytechnic's School of Engineering this year.

"I felt (the recognition) was out of proportion, that what I did was just a normal thing."

Sean, who plays for the Singapore Khalsa Association team, will continue to play hockey recreationally "because it's fun and I enjoy the sport".

Still, he hopes that fellow young athletes remember a valuable lesson from his deed: "Playing fair is more important than winning."

nicole@sph.com.sg



Sean See, captain of St Andrew's Secondary School hockey team last year, with his Young Athlete of the Year trophy at the Shangri-La Hotel yesterday. He will continue to play with the Singapore Khalsa Association team.
ST PHOTO: GAVIN FOO

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

I felt (the recognition) was out of proportion, that what I did was just a normal thing... Playing fair is more important than winning.

“

SEAN SEE, ST's Young Athlete of the Year, evaluating the reaction to his team's act of fair play.

Commentary

At a sporting awards lunch, a brilliant buffet of inspiring stories



Rohit Brijnath
Assistant Sports Editor

Dessert has been served, the rattle of cutlery echoes in the ballroom and Yu Mengyu is talking about crying. About quitting. About depression. She's speaking in Mandarin and I don't know anything beyond "xie xie" (thank you). My colleague David Lee is interpreting but in a way it doesn't matter because her intensity requires no translation. Struggle is a human language.

From January to June 2018, the table tennis player – a nominee for The Straits Times Athlete of the Year award – who was recovering from injury, had to play qualifiers. It's like starting again, it's

demeaning, it's enough to make her want to give up. But officials encouraged her to continue and now – after her joint bronze at the Asian Games – her competitiveness is back. In her frame, as slim as a cord, you can see her confidence.

Walk around the tables at yesterday's award function and this is what happens. You trip over a story. Go left and you stumble into grit, turn right and you bump into sportsmanship. Sit down and someone inspiring will make you stand up.

This year a gaggle of kids wearing shorts and ties and with a love for Feng Tianwei got a standing ovation.

They're from ACS (Barker Road), they're 13 years old, love table tennis but their school had no official team. So they got together, formed a team, converted their

parents and told their school, be a sport. Then they won a medal.

We relish this kind of stuff. We cherish devotion. We salute passion. We applaud the unnoticed. We recognise pride. It's why we nominated them for the Young Athlete of the Year.

We're in the sports business and so we admire winning but we're clear that our award isn't only about victory. We think Joseph Schooling is so gifted he should be investigated for gills but we have room for every type of tale. Stories on the way to gold and stories beyond the podium.

I asked another nominee, Toh Wei Soong, the para swimmer, his proudest moment last year and he, wisdom in a wheelchair, thought and said: "Breaking 30 seconds in the 50m freestyle at the Commonwealth Games."

We relish this kind of stuff. We cherish devotion. We salute passion. We applaud the unnoticed. We recognise pride... We're in the sports business and so we admire winning but we're clear that our award isn't only about victory.

has been around, we've acknowledged the shine of effort and a variety of talents. We've had 54 nominees from 14 sports and the score is women 28 nominations, men 26. Silat once made an appearance, so did equestrian and skating. Talent is rising on this island from every competitive corner.

Schooling has been nominated a record seven times – including this year – and every time he triumphs he makes it harder for himself to win the trophy. The best athletes get imprisoned by an impossible standard but then they just shrug and do something even more irresistible.

Yesterday, like always, we had para-athletes sitting alongside able-bodied athletes, all judged in the same category, and if some people flinch at this, we like the equality of it. Critics say para-athletes have the advantage of being more inspirational but they've won the award only thrice in 11 years. We're open, you see, to all manner of stories.

This year's most compelling one came from a young bowler who wanted to keep his team together because he told me it's more fun standing on a podium together. Muhammad Jaris Goh likes to lead and the Ironman poster on his bedroom wall has a caption which confirms that: "Following is not really my style."

Goh helped his team to a historic world championship bronze last year and this year seven judges deliberated over his feat. Votes were cast, the result was close, he was our winner. End of story.

rohitb@sph.com.sg

SPORTS FIXTURES HIGHLIGHTS				
Event	Home	Away	Timing	Venue
Fri, 22 Feb 2019				
A League	Central Coast	Brisbane Roar	4.50pm	LW
Sat, 23 Feb 2019				
French League	Dijon	St Etienne	2.00am	LW*
German League	Werder Bremen	Stuttgart	3.30am	LW*
Italian League	Milan	Empoli	3.30am	LW*
English Premier	Cardiff	Watford	3.45am	LW*
English Premier	West Ham	Fulham	3.45am	LW*
Spanish League	Espanyol	Huesca	4.00am	LW*

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MORE SUPPORT TO EXCEL AT MAJOR GAMES

**Singapore athletes
with podium
potential to get
funds, training stints**

Nicole Chia

Athletes who are aiming to compete at major Games in the next two years may be able to tap on extra resources in the form of extended campaign support fronted by national sports agency Sport Singapore.

This applies to those who do not qualify for the top-tier Sports Excellence Scholarship, but have shown the potential to excel and achieve a podium finish.

Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu said yesterday, during The Straits Times Athlete of the Year awards ceremony, that the extended campaign support of \$3 million can span up to two years in advance of the Games the athlete is aiming for.

Among other things, athletes qualified for this scheme can receive support from the Singapore Sports Institute's biomechanics team to improve their technical abilities, like a swimming stroke.

It will cover four major Games over the next two years – the 2019 SEA Games, 2020 Asean Para Games, 2020 Olympic Games and 2020 Paralympics.

It is the largest campaign support fund since SportSG's the Final Push Programme from 2014 to 2015, when more than 200 athletes gunning for glory at the Singapore SEA Games and Asean Para Games were supported with over \$5 million.

Among those who benefited from the scheme was rower Saiyidah Aisyah, who received more than \$50,000 worth of support, not including the services of her coach.

The programme was then renamed Road to Rio, with just under \$1 million in support for athletes aiming for the 2016 Olympics, before it was renamed campaign funding from 2017.

Slightly more than \$1 million were set aside for athletes gunning for major Games last year under this scheme.

Yesterday, Ms Fu said: "We want our athletes to excel at upcoming major Games."

"To encourage selected Team Singapore athletes to take on a full training load to start their preparations early for these Games, SportSG is rolling out extended campaign support of \$3 million up to two years in advance, for athletes who display potential to excel at these Games and a podium finish."

She added that those aiming to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games next year can look forward to training stints in Kochi, Japan, ahead of the Games to help them acclimatise to the competition environment.

nicole@sph.com.sg

**Singapore's top
athletes honoured**



<http://str.sg/2018aoty>

The Straits Times Athlete Of The Year 2018



Clockwise from top: Win or not, it is a proud day for all the ST Athlete of the Year and Young Athlete of the Year nominees as they pose for pictures with VIPs.

Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu speaking to ST Athlete of the Year nominee Toh Wei Soong and his family on stage.

Dominic Nathan, managing editor of Singapore Press Holdings' English/Malay/Tamil Media Group, talking to the minister.

ST's assistant sports editor Rohit Brijnath (right) mingling with Netball Singapore chief executive officer Cyrus Medora and other guests at the pre-ceremony reception.

ST Athlete of the Year nominee Yu Mengyu sharing the limelight with the ACS (Barker Road) table tennis team, ST Young Athlete of the Year nominees.

The ACS Barker boys' parents proudly clicking away with a plaque featuring the team, who won the South Zone C Division bronze last year. ST PHOTOS: GAVIN FOO

CURLERS AIM TO SET IT STRAIGHT

S. Korean ministry reveals coaches of curling team abused players, withheld prize money

SEOUL • South Korea's "Garlic Girls" curling team were exploited by their coaches who stole tens of thousands of dollars of prize money from the Olympic medal winners, the country's sports ministry said yesterday, before confirming the police will now look into the case.

The curlers, who come from Uiseong, a town famous for garlic farming, were rank outsiders at last year's Pyeongchang Winter Games. But they became a media sensa-

tion as they swept their way to an Olympic silver, the first Asian team to do so, despite limited funding.

Last November, they publicly accused their coaches, Kim Min-jung and Jang Ban-seok, of verbal abuse and intrusive control, and claimed they had not received their prize money from previous competitions. It prompted public outrage and a probe by the ministry.

The team claimed the coaches were running Korean curling like a

family fiefdom. The husband of their head coach Kim is a former national men's team coach, while her father, Kim Kyung-doo, is a former vice-president of the Korean Curling Federation (KCF).

Following a five-week investigation, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism revealed that the allegations made by the curlers were "mostly true".

A statement read: "It was confirmed that there was excessive control over privacy by the coaches, who strongly berated the athletes if they spoke with their previous coaches or athletes from other teams."



It added that the coaches also censured gifts and fan letters.

The ministry said that the team were not paid properly as the coaches had "mismanaged" around 94 million won (\$112,900) of their income, while embezzling around 30 million won.

The probe also found that the coaches had evaded taxes and

South Korea competing during the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics at the Gangneung Curling Centre. They became the first Asian team to win an Olympic silver after losing to Sweden in the final.

PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

hired unqualified family members to work on the national team.

The ministry will inform the National Tax Service of its findings regarding Kyung-doo's tax evasion, according to Yonhap.

But the news agency quoted Kang Jung-won, head of the sports cooperation bureau at the ministry, as saying the accused parties "did not agree" with the outcome and were contemplating an appeal.

The giant-killing feats of the quintet, also known as "Team Kim" for their shared surname, led to a boost in the popularity of curling in South Korea.

They appeared to have all the right ingredients for further success, with their food-based nicknames for ease of identification making them media darlings.

The captain, Kim Eun-jung, is Annie - a brand of yogurt - while Kim Yeong-mi is Pancake, Kim Kyeong-ae is Steak, Kim Seon-yeong is Sunny - as in a sunny side-up egg - and Kim Cho-hee is Chocho, a type of cookie.

However, they have since plummeted down the world rankings after failing to win the national trials in August. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SportsWorld

Yeo stuns ex-Olympic champ in Barcelona

Singapore shuttler Yeo Jia Min shocked China's 2012 Olympics women's singles champion Li Xuerui 21-16, 21-17 at the Spain Masters in Barcelona yesterday.

The 20-year-old will take on Denmark's Line Højmark Kjaersfeldt in the last eight today. Both world No. 42 Yeo and the 22nd-ranked Li will feature at the April 9-14 Singapore Open at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Another Singaporean, Loh Kean Yew outlasted India's Parupalli Kashyap 21-12, 18-21, 21-15 in the last 16 of the men's singles event yesterday.

Sevilla qualify for last 16 of Europa League

LONDON • Five-time Uefa Cup and Europa League winners Sevilla advanced to the last 16 of the football competition with a 2-0 home win over Lazio yesterday.

A goal in each half from Wissam Ben Yedder and Pablo Sarabia sealed a 3-0 aggregate victory with both sides ending with 10 men.

Sevilla's Franco Vazquez was sent off for a second yellow card with half an hour remaining, but Lazio surrendered their numerical advantage 11 minutes later when Adam Marusic was given a straight red card for striking Roque Mesa. REUTERS

LaLiga chief unlikely to switch to EPL

LONDON • LaLiga's organising body has said it does not expect president Javier Tebas to jump ship to the Premier League, responding to British media reports that the Spaniard has emerged as a candidate to become the English top flight's new chief executive.

A spokesman for the Spanish football league claimed yesterday it "was not aware of this supposed interest", but it was "a source of pride for the entire organisation" that the Premier League had "taken note of the work being done by LaLiga".

The Premier League has struggled to find a successor to former chief Richard Scudamore, who stepped down last December. REUTERS

Stricker is US captain for 2020 Ryder Cup

NEW YORK • Steve Stricker will captain the United States' 2020 Ryder Cup golf team, vowing on Wednesday to do everything he can to help the Americans regain the trophy from Europe.

The 51-year-old becomes the first US Ryder Cup captain never to have won a Major, but former world No. 1 Tiger Woods hailed the news, saying Stricker was "the overwhelming choice".

The Europeans have won four of the past five editions. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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Manchester City's Raheem Sterling scoring the winner in the 3-2 Champions League win over Schalke. Leroy Sane had earlier equalised to save City's blushes after going 2-1 down. PHOTO: REUTERS

SANE SAD FOR SCHALKE IN COMEBACK VICTORY

City forward earns praise for impact on game as Guardiola urges team to improve defence

8

Leroy Sane has scored three goals and set up five in his last seven appearances for Manchester City in all competitions.

GELSENKIRCHEN • If Pep Guardiola learnt anything from a chaotic night in Germany's industrial heartland, it was that you cannot keep a good narrative down.

Leroy Sane had been left on the bench for his return to Schalke and it did not seem an unreasonable decision given the manner that Manchester City went about their business clinically, taking the lead through Sergio Aguero.

However, the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie turned on its head after the video as-

sistant referee (VAR) twice intervened to award spot kicks, which were converted by Schalke midfielder Nabil Bentaleb.

Nicolas Otamendi was then sent off after the break and City's away record in Champions League knockout games going into this fixture, with five of their last eight matches ending in defeat, was under scrutiny again.

But Sane's rocket of a free kick with five minutes left and Raheem Sterling's route-one goal in added time spared City's blushes, giving Guardiola's men a 3-2 victory at the Veltins Arena on Wednesday.

Afterwards, the former Schalke academy product admitted to feeling "sorry" for his equaliser.

He said: "I couldn't really celebrate. Of course I was pleased for my team, but to score a goal like that against my former love..."

"It was very emotional for me to be back in my home town... At the end, we scored three goals away, that's the most important thing."

Former Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand felt Guardiola did not err in naming Sane only as a substitute as the German winger has "the end product and is a killer in that sense of the game".

He told BT Sport: "He comes on, makes a huge impact and that's what defines great teams as well. He just looks like poetry in motion the way he plays. He glides across the pitch."

However, Guardiola conceded that City could not continue to rely on individual brilliance to bail them out of trouble as "it is not enough at this level".

Calling on his side to stop giving opponents "options to be in the game" - Schalke took full advantage of their only two shots on target - he said: "We have some work to do. To go away and score three goals, I am delighted, but... we have to improve on that (defending)".

The Spaniard also backed the VAR despite a delay of over three minutes, after a technical error meant referee Carlos del Cerro Grande could not check Otamendi's handball for Schalke's first penalty.

He added: "The VAR needs time, they will improve, the screen was broken but, next time, they will be better."

"I support the technology because they (the match officials) need the help."

The Premier League champions are the only English club still capable of securing an unprecedented quadruple this season.

They will also be without Ferdinandinho, who was booked for the second spot kick, for the return leg at the Etihad on March 12.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, THE GUARDIAN

Contract issue may cost Sala's family \$1m in compensation

LONDON • The family of Emiliano Sala are in danger of missing out on up to £600,000 (\$81 million) in compensation for his death because Cardiff made an error in registering his contract with the English Premier League.

The league returned the paperwork to the club asking for corrections, and for the Argentinian striker to sign the forms again.

But, before he was able to do so,

the 28-year-old died when the light aircraft carrying him from France crashed into the English Channel on Jan 21, three days after he had become their club-record £15 million signing from Nantes.

The error could be significant because players automatically become part of the Professional Footballers' Association's (PFA) pension scheme as soon as they are registered with the league, and that

provides a £600,000 death-in-service payment to their families.

But the PFA is expected to press for the pension fund to honour the payment as Sala had signed a contract with Cardiff on Jan 18. Union officials hope that will be enough to secure a payment to his family.

PFA deputy chief executive John Bramhall said: "It will be for the trustees to see whether they are able to make the payment from

there. Normally, it would be a simple process, but we will be speaking with them on this. Usually, as soon as a contract is registered with the Premier League, the player is enrolled on the pension scheme."

The PFA had been unaware of any issues over the paperwork, but it is understood that the registration documents were returned to Cardiff by the league asking for corrections to be made.

The league registration is separate to the International Transfer Certificate, which was completed after Sala's move. That was registered with the Football Association of Wales and confirmed him as a Cardiff player, leaving the club liable to pay Nantes the transfer fee.

There is hope that Sala's family

will receive the £600,000 as the league's rules state that "immediately on signing this contract, the player shall be enrolled as... a member of the 2011 Section of the Professional Footballers' Pension Scheme and shall remain so during his employment".

This suggests that as Sala had signed his contract with Cardiff, his membership could be said to have started then rather than at the point the contract would have been registered with the league.

Cardiff did not respond when asked to comment, but they have frozen any payments to Nantes on the grounds that they want the outcome of the investigation into the crash to be completed first.

THE TIMES, LONDON

CONTRACT COMPLICATIONS

Usually, as soon as a contract is registered with the Premier League, the player is enrolled on the pension scheme.



JOHN BRAMHALL, Professional Footballers' Association deputy chief executive, on the contract Emiliano Sala signed with Cardiff.

Ronaldo frustrated as Atletico grab late 2-0 win

MADRID • Cristiano Ronaldo's gesticulations were borne out of frustration.

The persistent jeering by the Atletico Madrid faithful had been expected on his first visit to the Wanda Metropolitano stadium since leaving cross-town rivals Real Madrid for Juventus in the summer.

But all he had to show to the baying home fans was a five-fingered taunt to signify his five Champions League trophies as Juventus slumped to a 2-0 loss in the first leg of their last-16 tie on Wednesday night.

The seven-time defending Italian champions splashed out €100 million (\$153.5 million) on the Portuguese star forward in the hope that he would help them end 23 years of hurt in Europe's top club competition.

Instead, Ronaldo and Co are on the brink of elimination at the very first hurdle in the knockout stages.

Juventus were kept at bay by Atletico's rearguard before Diego Simeone made a shrewd tactical move with a triple attacking substitution - Angel Correa, Thomas Lemar and Alvaro Morata - after the break.

The breakthrough came in the 78th minute when Jose Gimenez scored after Morata's knockdown from a corner by Lemar.

Five minutes later, Diego Godin doubled their lead following a free kick, giving his team a huge advantage ahead of the March 12 return leg.

The Spanish LaLiga club have now kept a clean sheet in all three of their Champions League games against Juventus.

And they are unbeaten in their last 12 home matches in the knockout stages.

And Simeone, who provocatively celebrated Gimenez's opener by placing his hands over his groin, was delighted at how his players "represented the true meaning of Atletico".

Claiming he "felt the need to do it (the gesture)", the Argentinian said: "It wasn't aimed at the other team. Doing what we have done over these years is not easy, and today, we did it again."

While Simeone will be without Diego Costa and Thomas Parthey through suspension in the second leg, he will be confident of repelling Juventus, who will not be able to call on the banned Alex Sandro in Turin.

Atletico are aiming to reach this season's final, which will be held in their stadium, and lift their maiden European Cup. REUTERS

Next 48 Hours

TODAY

BASKETBALL

ABL Malaysia Dragons v Singapore Slingers (StarHub Ch202, 8.30pm).

FOOTBALL

English Premier League West Ham v Fulham (Singtel TV Ch102 & StarHub Ch227), Cardiff v Watford (Ch103 &

Ch228) - tomorrow, 3.45am.
Spanish LaLiga Espanyol v Huesca (StarHub Ch213, tomorrow, 3.55am).

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

One Championship Call To Greatness (Singapore Indoor Stadium, 6pm. Mediacorp okto, 10pm).

TENNIS

ATP Rio Open Day 5 (StarHub Ch201, tomorrow, 2am).

TOMORROW

BASKETBALL

ABL Formosa Dreamers v HK Eastern (StarHub Ch201, 3pm), Mono Vampire v Alab Pilipinas (Ch202, 4pm).

FOOTBALL

English Premier League Burnley v Tottenham (8.30pm), Newcastle v Huddersfield (11pm), Leicester v Palace (Sunday, 1.30am) - Singtel TV Ch102 & StarHub Ch227.
Bournemouth v Wolves (Ch103 & Ch228, 10.50pm).
Spanish LaLiga Getafe v Rayo (7.55pm), Sevilla v Barcelona (11.10pm),

Alaves v Celta (Sunday, 1.25am), Bilbao v Eibar (Sunday, 3.40am) - StarHub Ch213.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

UFC Fight Night Blachowicz v Santos (Singtel TV Ch114 & StarHub Ch208, Sunday, 3am).

TRIATHLON

Super League Triathlon Day 1 (One*15 Marina and Sentosa Cove, 11am).

TENNIS

ATP Rio Open Day 6 (StarHub Ch201, Saturday, 4am).

For latest updates, check the on-screen TV guide.

life

D CHANEL ON SHOW
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Serene Peh, 69

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In the last 14 years, Aaron Kwok has earned about 20 nominations and won nearly 10 acting awards in film festivals around the world. ST PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

I'm an actor, I'm crazy

Hong Kong star Aaron Kwok says actors like to punish themselves physically, psychologically and emotionally with different roles



Wong Kim Hoh

His famous manga-sized eyes hidden behind stylish aviator shades, Aaron Kwok breaks into a devilish grin and pronounces in Cantonese: "Like many actors, I'm crazy."

"That's why we do what we do, we like to punish ourselves physically, psychologically and emotionally with different roles."

In his case, being crazy has reaped rich dividends. In the last 14 years, the 53-year-old has earned about 20 nominations and won nearly 10 awards for acting in film festivals around the world.

These include back-to-back Best Actor triumphs in 2005 and 2006 at the Golden Horse Awards – the Oscars of Chinese cinema – for his roles as a beleaguered cop in crime thriller *Divergence* (2005), and a

deadbeat father in family drama *After This Our Exile* (2006).

A nifty feat for someone who started out as a dancer more than three decades ago.

In December, he received the Actor of the Year award at the Hainan International Film Festival from Johnny Depp, one of his favourite Hollywood stars. The accolade was for playing a counterfeiter in Hong Kong director Felix Chong's action drama *Project Gutenberg* last year.

The same role has also earned him – as well as Chow Yun Fat, his co-star in the film – a Best Actor nomination at the upcoming Hong Kong Film Awards (HKFA) on April 14.

Decked out in a sharply cut grey suit with his hair immaculately slicked back, he is chuffed about the nomination.

It is a validation, he says, of the hard work he has put into *Project Gutenberg*, which has become the second-most nominated film in the history of the HKFA, with 17 nominations.

He adds: "It also means that both audience and critics like my performance. As an actor, that's all I can ask for. As for winning, that depends a lot on luck."

"And I think my luck is good," quips the Longines watch ambassador, who was in town earlier this week to open a new boutique in

Marina Bay Sands and to promote the brand's new HydroConquest Ceramic watches.

If he is excited to be vying for the same award with Chow, regarded as one of Asia's finest actors, in the same movie, he is not showing it. In *Project Gutenberg*, the veteran 63-year-old actor plays The Painter, the mysterious and ruthless mastermind of a counterfeit ring.

Cool as a cucumber, Kwok says he felt no pressure working opposite his acclaimed co-star, who recently made headlines for pledging to give away his entire fortune – reportedly worth nearly \$1 billion – after he dies.

"I respect Fat Gor (Big Brother Fat) tremendously, but we're both professionals. I've been acting for a long time. Feeling pressure would affect my performance. Both of us had to be in character. On the set, he was The Painter, I was Lee Man," he says.

It is hard to believe that Kwok is 53. One of the four Heavenly Kings – the others are Andy Lau, Jacky Cheung and Leon Lai – who ruled Hong Kong show business in the 1990s, his skin is still taut, his jet-black hair abundant and his physique ripped, thanks to a strict diet and masochistic daily workouts.

SUCCESS BUILT ON HARD WORK AND CONSTANT CHANGE continued on D2



Aaron Kwok picked up Golden Horse Best Actor awards for his roles as a cop in *Divergence* (2005, left) and a deadbeat father in *After This Our Exile* (2006, below).



Kwok is up against his *Project Gutenberg* (2018) co-star Chow Yun Fat (both left) for Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards in April.

PHOTOS: MM2 ENTERTAINMENT, SHAW ORGANISATION



Now 53, Aaron Kwok has held numerous concerts over the years, released more than 80 albums and EPs, and acted in more than 60 movies. PHOTOS: APPLE DAILY, CHONG JUN LIANG, ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS, THE NEW PAPER FILE

Success built on hard work and constant change

FROM D1

His looks may not have changed much over three decades, but his artistic instincts and capabilities certainly have.

An articulate man who gives thoughtful and considered responses in Cantonese to questions lobbed at him, he has the quiet sturdiness and self-assurance of an artist who has paid his dues and earned his place in the sun.

The transition to actor was not an easy one for Kwok, who joined a dance training course at Hong Kong television station TVB when he was 18.

Before that, he worked briefly as a shop assistant in a goldsmith shop, but was reportedly fired because a leg injury from doing the splits at a party kept him away from work for too long.

"Getting to where I am was a slow process. It took a lot of hard work and discipline. I also made good use of opportunities given to me," says Kwok, who cut his acting teeth on TVB dramas in the 1980s.

One director who saw that there was more to Kwok than just a pretty boy with nifty dance moves was Patrick Tam, who cast him as a seedy and abusive father in the family drama *After This Our Exile*.

Tam had told the Heavenly King that if he wanted to be taken seriously as an actor, he had to take on difficult roles. Kwok more than rose to the challenge, taking home the Golden Horse.

"I take my art seriously, whether it is dancing, singing or acting. It's all about inhabiting the role, it's about projecting emotions. You have to get everything right so that you are believable," says the artist, who has released more than 80 albums and EPs, and acted in more than 60 movies.

He loves acting because it allows him to explore other lives and emotions.

"I'm 53, I've seen and experienced quite a lot of life. I leverage

these experiences and my imagination to play different roles," says Kwok, adding that he also watches a lot of movies and does a lot of character research.

"Yun mei" (the Cantonese word for perfection) is a word he uses often, betraying his Type A personality and a dogged streak to constantly change and improve.

"Change is very important for an artist. You have to keep wanting to be better, you have to evolve, you cannot stay stagnant. I'm always looking for new scripts to read and interesting directors and actors to work with," he says.

Asked how he describes time, the face of Longines says: "I don't believe in being too tied down to the past. What's past is over. You have to focus on the present and make good use of what you have."

"And the future? No one knows what will happen," says the last of the Heavenly Kings to settle down.

He dated a string of beautiful women over the decades, but finally tied the knot with actress-model Moka Fang, 31, two years ago. The couple have a daughter and are expecting another baby.

His work is cut out for him over the next couple of years.

He will soon be seen in three new movies, including *I'm Living It*, a social drama about the marginalised and homeless in the former British colony. In crime thriller *Theory Of Ambitions*, he will spar with another acclaimed actor Tony Leung Chiu Wai – both play notoriously corrupt police officers in 1960s Hong Kong.

Over the next two years, Kwok also hopes to stage 100 concerts in Asia and other parts of the world.

"That's the target. I don't know if we will hit it, but I will certainly try."

Asked what advice he would give his 20-year-old self, he grins. "I'd tell him to start at 16 instead of 18. Then he'd have two more years to do what he loves."

kimhoh@sph.com.sg



I take my art seriously, whether it is dancing, singing or acting. It's all about inhabiting the role, it's about projecting emotions. You have to get everything right so that you are believable.



AARON KWOK, who started out in show business at the age of 18

Karl Lagerfeld's Chanel successor Virginie Viard was 'both his right and left hand'

PARIS • If there was any constant to a Chanel runway show, where the set replicates a vast autumnal forest one season and a hulking cruise ship the next, it was the man behind the curtain: Karl Lagerfeld, Chanel's designer and mastermind since 1983, who died on Tuesday at the age of 85.

Last month, Virginie Viard, the creative studio director at Chanel, took the bow at the end of the haute couture collection when Lagerfeld was, according to a statement from the house, "feeling tired" and did not appear himself.

Viard was at Lagerfeld's side for the finale of several previous shows, including the resort collection in Paris in May last year and the extravaganza at the Temple of Dendur in New York in December.

Naturally, speculation ensued: Was this a sign of the house's immi-

nent succession plan? It was.

Viard has been in place for years. "Karl is the locomotive and Virginie is the rails of Chanel," said Loic Prigent, the documentary filmmaker who shoots the atelier's craftsmanship before each show.

In the announcement of Lagerfeld's death, Chanel described Viard as his "closest collaborator for more than 30 years".

The announcement also said Mr Alain Wertheimer, chief executive of Chanel, entrusted her with the "creative work for the collections, so that the legacy of Gabrielle Chanel and Karl Lagerfeld can live on".

Viard, who is in her 50s, grew up in Lyon, France, the eldest of five siblings. Her father is a ski champion turned surgeon and her maternal grandparents were silk manufacturers.



Karl Lagerfeld with Virginie Viard and Hudson Kroenig, his godson, at the Chanel Metiers D'Art show in New York in December. She has become Chanel's new creative director. PHOTO: NYTIMES

She lives in Paris with her partner, Jean-Marc Fyot, a composer and music producer, and they have a son, Robinson, who is in his early 20s. He walked the runway of the

Chanel 2014 show in Singapore, wearing a lace blazer.

Viard studied at Le Cours Georges, a fashion school in Lyon, where she specialised in film and

theatrical costume. She spent a year in London at the peak of punk. Later, after a stint at a boutique in Lyon, she became the assistant to the costume designer Dominique Borg in Paris.

She was recommended to Lagerfeld for an internship by Prince Rainier of Monaco's head of protocol, who was a family friend. She joined the designer at Chanel in 1987 and, not long after, was put in charge of embroidery.

Next came a five-year entree at Chloe, still under Lagerfeld's wing. In 1997, she was named the studio director of Chanel.

Lagerfeld referred to Viard as both his right and left hand. As soon as he completed a sketch, her work began. She oversaw six collections a year and also served as a translator of Lagerfeld's vision.

Even though his death leaves a

huge hole at the head of Chanel, analysts say the fashion juggernaut is in such rude health that it is likely to power on without him.

Until last year, the real scale of his financial success at Chanel was kept secret. But in June, the Wertheimer family who owns the brand released figures for the first time, showing sales of US\$9.62 billion (\$13 billion) in 2017.

That put Chanel ahead of Gucci and just behind Louis Vuitton as the second-biggest luxury fashion label, although much of LV's profits come from sales of bags and luggage.

Even without Lagerfeld, Chanel is still "a Ferrari of the luxury world", analyst Luca Solca of Bernstein Consulting told Agence France-Presse. "There is no doubt that the house is in a very strong position."

NYTIMES, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



Chanel's Revelation Diamant necklace can be worn in five ways – long or short, and with or without its central diamond camellia flower, which can be detached and worn as a brooch. PHOTO: CHANEL

One necklace, many looks

French fashion house Chanel has launched its 1.5 Camellia high jewellery collection which features jewellery that can be worn in multiple ways

Melissa Heng

The Revelation Diamant necklace may look like a regular diamond-encrusted piece, but the crown jewel of Chanel's latest high-jewellery collection is far from ordinary.

Made with white gold and diamonds, the necklace can be worn in

five ways – as a shorter necklace or a long sautoir and with or without its central diamond camellia flower. The diamond camellia is also detachable and can be worn as a brooch, on a belt or in the hair.

The necklace, along with 52 other sparkling pieces from the French label's 1.5 Camellia high jewellery collection, will arrive in Singapore for a private exhibition this weekend.

The collection debuted in Paris last month and Singapore will be the first country outside of France to show it.

Chanel's high jewellery collections are often showcased in various countries after their Parisian debut and this is the first time that Singapore is the first stop.

In an interview with The Straits Times earlier this week, Ms Marianne Etchebarne, Chanel's global head of watches and fine jewellery marketing (media and clients), says this is the first time the label is highlighting the concept of transformable jewellery.

The collection, she adds, "invites each woman to wear the pieces according to her own style and whims by detaching, transforming and combining the pieces".

The collection was designed by Chanel's Fine Jewellery Creation Studio and took about two years to be put together.

It was inspired by the favourite flower of the brand's founder Gabrielle "CoCo" Chanel. Not one for opulent blooms, she preferred the camellia's scentless, thorn-free simplicity.

Though the flower was more commonly worn as a man's boutonniere at the time, she often wore the symmetrical white bud on her iconic black dresses.

The luxury label has used the motif in various jewellery collections before, most notably in the colourful Jardin de Camélias collection in 2013.

In the 1.5 collection – shorthand for "one camellia, five allures" – the flower is re-interpreted in various colours and textures – with stunning diamonds, pink sapphires and rubies.

Twenty-six are transformable and can be worn in multiple ways.

One highlight is the Rouge Incandescent necklace.

Made with white gold, rubies and diamonds, the large diamond camellia can be detached to reveal a more delicate ruby camellia. It can also be worn as a brooch.

Another transformable piece is the Rouge Tentation ring, a large camellia-shaped ring in pink gold, red spinels and diamonds.

The diamond-set petals around the ring can be removed to reveal a smaller ring composed of the spinel-set petals only.

All the pieces are available for purchase and prices range from \$73,810 to \$6,495,000.

Chanel is not the only high jewellery label to craft convertible



A convertible necklace in platinum with diamonds, 1938, from the Bvlgari Heritage Collection. PHOTO: BVLGARI

jewellery. Others such as Italian label Bvlgari, Swiss label Chopard and French houses Chaumet and Cartier have also done the same.

Their pieces include emerald necklaces that can be turned into tiaras and diamond sautoirs that can be converted into bracelets and brooches.

Such versatile jewellery pieces are perhaps the most complicated a maison can make – creating detachable pieces that hide various hinges and clasps while still keeping the piece delicate requires masterful skill.

As such, crafting transformable jewellery is often a maison's way of showing off its artistry.

But convertible jewellery is not exclusive to just the international luxury brands.

Singapore jewellery labels such as Carrie K. and State Property also have such pieces.

For example, State Property's Drew Pave earrings – which were worn by former United States first lady Michelle Obama last year – can be worn as studs or dangling earrings.

The studs cost \$2,500, while the

attachable extensions are \$2,600.

At Carrie K., various rings can be paired together, with smaller pieces fitting into larger designs – like the Open Star Ring (\$398), an open deconstructed six-point star design that can be worn alone or with a smaller inner ring added on.

The label's founder Carolyn Kan says she designed convertible pieces because she wanted jewellery that could be worn as both a statement piece and a simpler everyday accessory.

"Customers like to create their own unique look, so convertible jewellery allows them to create their own combination and show off their own personal style to suit their outfit or mood."

melheng@sph.com.sg

• The 1.5 Camellia High Jewellery collection exhibition runs from today to Tuesday. It is private and not open to the public. Those interested in the collection can contact Chanel Watches & Fine Jewellery on 6836-7588.



Chanel's Rouge Tentation ring with the diamond petals (above) and without the diamond petals. PHOTOS: CHANEL

Gigs Picks

Eddino Abdul Hadi Music Correspondent recommends

**GOODNIGHT, GO HOME! A NIGHT FOR ZUL**

Veterans and personalities from Singapore's live music industry come together to celebrate the life of late musician and singer Zul Sutan (above), who died of health complications in December last year. The line-up includes more than 20 acts, including Zul's band Tania, singer Jacintha Abisheganaden, musician Jeremy Monteiro and home-grown band Jive Talkin'.

WHERE: Hard Rock Cafe Singapore, HPL House, 50 Cuscaden Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Sunday, 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** Limited tickets at \$20 at the door

**PITCH BY CHOK KERONG**

Acclaimed home-grown jazz artist Chok Kerong (left) will present a new set of compositions, the follow-up to 2015's Eleven. He will be accompanied by a sterling group of

musicians that include home-grown names such as drummer Soh Wen Ming and conductor Ang Shao-Wen, as well as Hong Kong guitarist Teriver Cheung and bassist Johannes Felscher.

WHERE: Esplanade Recital Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade **WHEN:** Wednesday and Thursday, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$35 (go to www.esplanade.com)

**JOSH GROBAN BRIDGES TOUR**

American singer Josh Groban, best known for classical pop hits such as 2003's You Raise Me Up and 2006's You Are Loved (Don't Give Up), brings his famous voice to Singapore for his first concert here.

He will be backed by a full orchestra and choir and will sing his hits as well as newer songs from his eighth and newest album Bridges, released last year.

WHERE: The Star Theatre, 04-01 The Star Performing Arts Centre, 1 Vista Exchange Green **MRT:** Buona Vista **WHEN:** Monday, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$108 to \$328 from Sistic (go to www.sistic.com.sg or call 6348-5555)

**BRAIN DAMAGE – PINK FLOYD'S DARK SIDE OF THE MOON AND WISH YOU WERE HERE IN QUADRAPHONIC**

Influential British band Pink Floyd might not be around any more, but fans can still experience their music live through this concert by home-grown band Welcome To The Machine. The quintet will play all the songs from two of Pink Floyd's groundbreaking albums, The Dark Side Of The Moon (1973), and its follow-up, Wish You Were Here (1975).

WHERE: The Pavilion, 01-01 Far East Square, 28 China Street **MRT:** Telok Ayer **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 7pm **ADMISSION:** \$30 from braindamage.peatix.com

Welcome To The Machine's members include (from far left) Lim Kiang, Arindam Chatterjee and Noel Ong. PHOTOS: ARIFFIN JAMAR, BRIAN BOWEN SMITH, COURTESY OF CAROL MOSES, ESPLANADE

GIGS

Nadia Ali: Retro-spect

Sway along to Nadia Ali as she performs nostalgic songs that have inspired her musical journey. Retro-spect presents three sets, the first of which is Preambling, which explores beginnings and youth. The second set explores the theme of Sunrise, of living life in the present, full of hopes and dreams. Sunset is the last set that is

haunting and melancholically ephemeral.

WHERE: Esplanade Concourse, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** March 15: 6.30, 7.30 & 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

Throwback With Singapore Char Siew Baos

The Singapore Char Siew Baos bring you a collection of their favourite English and Mandarin evergreens. These songs represent different

stages of their musical journey and they will share stories related to them. Expect hits from The Carpenters, Abba, Teresa Teng, Yu Tian and more.

WHERE: Esplanade Concourse, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** March 16: 5, 6, 7 & 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

All You Need Is Love – A Tribute To The Beatles

Boogie along to the hits of The Fab Four in this one-night-only concert. Join PennyLane and dancers as they bring you the rock-'n'-roll hits of The Beatles from 1962 to 1965, then let Dimension5 serenade you with favourites like Hey Jude and Let It Be from 1965 to 1969, together with the orchestra Seira.

WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** March 16, 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 - \$45 **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

Sundays With Sheila

Join Singapore veteran singer Sheila De Niro as she performs songs from yesteryear by Abba, Olivia Newton-John and more. She will be accompanied by piano maestro and her partner in music Anthony Kwah.

WHERE: Esplanade Concourse, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** March 17: 3.30, 4.15, 5 & 5.45pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

Belinda Carlisle Runaway Horses 30th Anniversary Tour

Pop superstar Belinda Carlisle's spectacular album Runaway Horses turns 30 this year and Singapore is part of this landmark anniversary world tour.

WHERE: The Star Theatre, 04-01 The Star Performing Arts Centre, 1 Vista Exchange Green **MRT:** Buona Vista **WHEN:** April 6, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$108 - \$188, \$428 (VIP) **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

Sanisah Huri Live

This grand solo concert of Sanisah Huri is a 90-minute showcase of songs commemorating her journey in life and the music industry since the late 1960s. She will be performing songs from her collection of great hits and evergreens such as Siapa Gerangan, Si Baju Hijau, Taj Mahal, Sejak Ku Bertemu Pada Mu and Ku Jangan Ditinggalkan with the accompaniment of renowned musicians and guest artists.

WHERE: Capitol Theatre, 17 Stamford Road **MRT:** City Hall **WHEN:** April 19, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$68 - \$128 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

Nomee 4896 World Tour – Encore

Malaysian hip-hop singer-songwriter-composer and actor-film-maker Nomee will hold his 4896 World Tour – Encore show in Singapore in April. The concert tour's title 4896, when pronounced in Hokkien, sounds like "very strong and powerful".

WHERE: Compass Ballroom, Resorts World Convention Centre, 8 Sentosa Gateway **MRT:** HarbourFront **WHEN:** April 27, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$28 - \$178 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

A-Lin Live In Singapore

Taiwan singer-songwriter A-Lin made her music debut in 2006, achieving rapid commercial success in Mandopop. **WHERE:** Singapore Indoor Stadium, 2 Stadium Walk **MRT:** Stadium **WHEN:** May 4, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$98 - \$198 **TEL:** 3158-7888 **INFO:** Tickets from www.sportshubtix.sg, Singapore Indoor Stadium Box Office & SingPost outlets

CHARITY

World Down Syndrome Day

Down Syndrome Association (Singapore) will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day to raise awareness of the condition and promote inclusivity with a community walk and family carnival. This year's theme – Leave No One Behind – highlights the importance for everyone to embrace differences and walk alongside people with Down syndrome.

WHERE: Central Plaza, Our Tampines Hub, 1 Tampines Walk **MRT:** Tampines **WHEN:** March 16, 8am - 3pm **ADMISSION:** Free, \$20 for community walk **TEL:** 6500-9313 (Joanne) **INFO:** E-mail joanne@downsyndrome-association.org

TALKS

Time Of The Month: Menstrual Health Matters

In conjunction with International Women's Day, Pride In Our Tide is concluding its three-month-long campaign with an event to help kick-start the culture of conversations to enable men and women to understand menstrual health and management better. Panellists include Dr Tan Kai Lit from Thomson Women's Clinic (Thomson Medical); Ms Ann Gee, co-founder of LiveLoveLuna, an online store specialising in reusable menstrual products; actress and emcee Naomi Yeo; and Peck Ying and Caleb, co-founders

of pslove, which sells heat patches to alleviate menstrual cramps.

WHERE: The B Collective, 04-28 T-Space, 1 Tampines North Drive (opposite Ikea Tampines) **MRT:** Tampines/Pasir Ris **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 1 - 4pm (women), 4.30 - 7.30pm (couples) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** Sign up at prideinourtide.com

All That Glitters Is Not Gold: Kelingkan Embroidery

Mr John Ang, who has a master's in Asian art history, will talk about kelingkan embroidery, a quintessential category of Malay textiles, its possible origins and how its technique spread to a major part of the Malay world. **WHERE:** The Ngee Ann Auditorium, Basement, Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Mon, 11am **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6337-3685 **INFO:** fom.sg

Listen To Your Kidneys

Have your kidneys screened, listen to industry experts on the risk factors of kidney failure and learn practical tips on healthy eating. **WHERE:** 81 Kim Keat Road **MRT:** Novena (free shuttle bus provided) **WHEN:** March 10, 8am **ADMISSION:** Free, register at tinyurl.com/nkftkyk2019 **TEL:** 1800-5436397 **INFO:** nkfs.org

CLASSES

The Flavours Of Asia Culinary Workshop

The masterclasses are hosted by chefs from Singapore Asian restaurants – chef Selamat Susanto (Fat Chap), chef Leong Chee Yeng (Jade Restaurant), chef Edward Chong (Peach Blossoms) and chef Violet Oon (Violet Oon Singapore) – who will prepare their signature dishes. **WHERE:** ToTT Cooking Studio, 02-14 Century Square, 2 Tampines Central 5 **MRT:** Tampines **WHEN:** March 2: 10am, noon, 2 & 4pm **ADMISSION:** \$25++ a person (\$20++ for Citi cardholders) **TEL:** 6319-4038 **INFO:** E-mail asianmasters@sph.com.sg

Gardening Workshop: Starting An Edible Garden At Home

Learn to grow and harvest your own edible garden. This hands-on indoor workshop will cover soil fertility, watering, light, pots, pest management and the different kinds of edible plants in Singapore. **WHERE:** Citizen Farm, 60 Jalan Penjara **MRT:** Queenstown **WHEN:** March 3, 11am - 1pm **ADMISSION:** \$15 a person (\$20 for two)

INFO: E-mail obgxml@nus.edu.sg with your name & mobile number to register

Wonders Of The Voice

This course teaches participants to bring characters to life with their voice through various techniques. They will also practise script analysis and try out voiceover and voice acting lines. **WHERE:** Level 4 function room, Bukit Batok East Community Club, 23 Bukit Batok East Avenue 4 **MRT:** Bukit Batok **WHEN:** March 17 & 24, 2.30 - 6pm **ADMISSION:** \$260 (\$250 for PAssion card members), sign up at tinyurl.com/wotvoice **INFO:** wondersofthevoice.com

SPORTS

Singapore Urban Polo

Events include three adrenaline-filled games of polo, an anticipated DJ line-up, and food and beverage offerings. There are also opportunities to meet star polo players, stomp in the divots and dress to impress with your friends for a chance to win the "fashion on the field" competition. **WHERE:** Marina Mall, 6 Marina Green **MRT:** Marina South Pier/Bayfront **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4 - 10pm **ADMISSION:** \$119.87 - \$297.19, tickets from bit.ly/2RQtper **INFO:** E-mail info@urbanpolo.com.sg or go to urbanpolo.com.sg

Harlem Globetrotters World Tour

The Original Harlem Globetrotters are globally known for their amazing feats on the basketball court, incredible humour, generous acts of goodwill and providing endless entertainment for their fans and this tour will be no different. **WHERE:** Singapore Indoor Stadium, 2 Stadium Walk **MRT:** Stadium **WHEN:** April 5, 6pm (Magic Pass) & 8pm (Main Show) **ADMISSION:** \$29 - \$225 **TEL:** 3158-7888 **INFO:** Tickets from www.sportshubtix.sg, Singapore Indoor Stadium Box Office & SingPost outlets

50 Hours Non-Stop Run

The run, in its fifth year and organised by Tampines West Community Sports Club, challenges participants to push their limits in achieving a running distance ranging from 21.5km to 86km within a 50-hour duration. This is a non-competitive event and times are not recorded. **WHERE:** Bedok Reservoir Park **MRT:** Bedok **WHEN:** April 19 (9am) - April 21 (11am) **ADMISSION:** \$24 (\$20 for PAssion card members) for 43km category **INFO:** Sign up at bit.ly/2RZjRya (closing date: Thu)

Exclusively for subscribers of The Straits Times

Asian Masters cooking demonstration by chef Selamat Susanto

Asian Masters returns for its seventh edition from March 1, 2019 till Feb 29, 2020 and celebrates the best of Asian gastronomy.

The programme line-up includes a series of cooking demonstrations by renowned chefs from top Asian restaurants.



The Straits Times is giving away 30 pairs of passes to this session on March 2 at 10am.

HOW TO WIN

1. Download the SPH Rewards app.
2. Look for the giveaway in the Rewards section.
3. Press the "JOIN" button and answer this question:

This cooking demonstration by chef Selamat Susanto and hosted by ST senior food correspondent Wong Ah Yoke is part of Asian Masters 2019. True or False?

The contest ends on Feb 22. Terms and conditions apply.



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FOOD

PROMOTIONS

Udon Kamon 1-for-1

Udon Kamon, which specialises in sanuki udon from the Shikoku region, is offering a one-for-one (minimum two diners) on its udon dishes such as Smoked Duck Udon (\$11.80++), Magma Spicy Udon (\$13.80++), Tom Yam Spicy Udon (\$13.80++) and Prawn Tonkotsu Udon (\$14.80++). **WHERE:** 03-315, Sky Garden Suntec City, 3 Temasek Boulevard **MRT:** Promenade/Esplanade **WHEN:** Today: 11.30am - 3pm & 5 - 10pm; tomorrow: 11.30am - 10pm **PRICE:** \$11.80++ - \$14.80++ **TEL:** 6266-5338 **INFO:** facebook.com/udonkamonsg

Crystal Jade Jiang Nan Makeover And New Menu

Crystal Jade Jiang Nan at VivoCity has a new look, inspired by the cuisine and lush landscapes of the Jiangnan region, and its revamped menu encourages communal dining over small plates. Highlights include the Three Delicacies Platter (\$16.80++), comprising chilled Nanjing salted duck slices, chilled spinach and fresh lily bulbs with sesame sauce and Jiangsu smoked fish; Double-boiled Conpoy and Chrysanthemum Soup with Pearl Abalone (\$18.80++); Mala Crispy Roasted Chicken (\$15.80++ for half, \$29.80++ for whole); Yangzhou Fried Rice Shaped Pasta (\$16.80++); Cheesy Crisp Mochi Ball (\$10.80++ for six pieces); Souffle Egg White Ball with red bean and banana (\$8.80++ for three pieces); and Cream Custard Mochi (\$6.80++ for four pieces). **WHERE:** 01-52 VivoCity, 1 Harbourfront Walk **MRT:** HarbourFront **WHEN:** Mon - Thu: 11.30am - 3pm, 6 - 10.30pm; Fri - Sun & eve of & public holidays: 11am - 10.30pm **PRICE:** \$6.80++ - \$29.80++ **TEL:** 6221-1830 **INFO:** crystaljade.com

Takeaway Gourmet Bowls At Sofitel's Coffea

Coffea at Sofitel Singapore City Centre has launched a line-up of gourmet bowls. Grab and go or eat at the sitting area without incurring extra dine-in service charge. Menu highlights include Chicken Rice, Norwegian Salmon Poke with jasmine rice, Premium Penne with wagyu meatballs and two vegetarian versions. **WHERE:** Level 5 Sofitel Singapore City Centre, 9 Wallich Street **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Weekdays, 11am - 3pm **PRICE:** \$15+ a bowl **TEL:** 6428-5000 **INFO:** E-mail HA152@sofitel.com

Revamped Orchard Cafe's Signature Buffet

Fresh from a multimillion-dollar revamp, the Orchard Cafe renews its legacy with a new style and signature hotel buffet, which features dishes such as Wok-Fried Slipper Lobster with Salted Egg Yolk Sauce, Ox Tripe and Duck Hearts Satay, Braised or Crispy Pork Knuckle and Hua Ting's Roast Meats. Other highlights include Asian noodle dishes served at a live noodle bar. **WHERE:** Lobby Level Orchard Hotel Singapore, 442 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN/PRICE:** Lunch (noon - 2.30pm) \$58++ - \$62++; dinner (6 - 10pm) \$78++ - \$88++ **TEL:** 6739-6565 **INFO:** E-mail orchardcafe.ohs@millenniumhotels.com

Lobster Nasi Lemak At Fullerton's Town Restaurant

Fullerton's Town Restaurant offers a luxe take on a perennial local favourite. Its Lobster Nasi Lemak marries a whole lobster - marinated with tangy chilli, sugar and white pepper and deep-fried - with coconut-scented rice and an omelette. **WHERE:** The Fullerton Hotel Singapore, 1 Fullerton Square **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Mon - Fri: 11am - 10.30pm; Sat & Sun (except public holidays): 6.30 - 10.30pm **PRICE:** \$35++ **TEL:** 6877-8911/8912 **INFO:** E-mail dining-rsvp@fullertonhotels.com

Once Upon A Time In London At Tippling Club

Tippling Club welcomes bar director Marcis Dzelzainis from London's wine-centric bar Sager + Wilde, as part of its Once Upon A Time series. Supported by spirits and beer producer Diageo, the night will feature five cocktails by Dzelzainis and five traditional English dishes from Tippling Club's kitchen. **WHERE:** Bin 38 at Tippling Club, 38 Tanjong Pagar Road **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Wed, 7pm **PRICE:** \$155++ a person **TEL:** 6475-2217 **INFO:** E-mail enquiries@tipplingclub.com

Sushi Ayumu Goes Tokyo-Style

After a rebranding, Sushi Ayumu now specialises in traditional Tokyo (Edo)-style sushi and brings in catch from Japan daily, such as hon-maguro (bluefin tuna) and uni, paired with its signature shari (sushi rice) served warm. A menu highlight is its Ayumu Roll, a combination of chutoro, bafun uni, buri and shiso leaf. **WHERE:** 04-16 Mandarin Gallery, 333A Orchard Road **MRT:** Somerset/Orchard **WHEN:** Tue - Sun: noon - 3pm, 7 - 10pm **PRICE:** Lunch: \$120++ - \$250++, omakase from \$300++; dinner: \$280++ - \$350++, omakase from \$450++ **TEL:** 6733-2114, 9159-0102 **INFO:** E-mail contact@sushi-ayumu.com

Asian-Themed BBQ Nights At Pan Pacific

Sizzle up Friday and Saturday nights with a four-course Asian-themed barbecue menu at Pan Pacific Singapore's Poolside Patio. Appetisers include a selection of greens, meats and crustaceans, such as House Specialty BBQ Chicken Wings, Alaskan King Crab and Boston Lobster in garlic butter. Mains highlights are Beef Flank Steak, BBQ Pork Ribs and Nonya Spices Chicken Sausage on hot plates and grilled favourites such as Australian Tandoori Lamb Cutlets, Tiger Prawns with garlic butter and Miso-cruste Sea Perch Fillet. **WHERE:** Level 4 Pan Pacific Singapore, 7 Raffles Boulevard **MRT:** Promenade **WHEN:** Fri & Sat (till April 11): 6.30 - 9.30pm **PRICE:** \$78++ a person (add \$38++ for free-flow unlimited house wine & beer), \$39++ a child (six - 12 years old) **TEL:** 6826-8240 **INFO:** E-mail dining.ppsin@panpacific.com

Wave Cafe Monthly Promotion

The monthly promotion at Grand Mercure Singapore Roxy's Wave Cafe offers dishes such as ayam buah keluak with steamed rice (\$18.90++), seabass fillet with grapefruit hollandaise sauce (\$20.90++) and salad and sandwich delight (\$8.90++), which come with a drink and a choice of the signature butter/banana cake. A cake set (\$4.90++) with coffee or tea is served from 7 to 11am. **WHERE:** Lobby Level Grand Mercure Singapore Roxy, Roxy Square, 50 East Coast Road **MRT:** Eunos/Dakota **WHEN:** Till Feb 28: 11.30am - 10pm **PRICE:** \$4.90++ - \$20.90++ **TEL:** 6340-5882 **INFO:** grandmercureroxy.com.sg

WINE/WHISKY EVENTS

Bordeaux Wine-Maker Dinner

Enjoy Bordeaux wine with a five-course dinner hosted by Stephane Dupuch, owner and winemaker of Chateau Sainte-Marie and Chateau Peyredon-Lagravette, Bordeaux. Menu highlights include duck foie gras terrine, tagliatelle with venison bourguignon and slow-roasted beef ribeye topped with caramelised onion, roasted baby potato and bordelaise sauce, paired with wines such as 2014 Chateau Sainte-Marie Reserve - Cadillac and 2016 Chateau Sainte-Marie - Bordeaux Supérieur. **WHERE:** Wine Connection @ Capital Square, 01-01 Capital Square 3, 25 Church Street **MRT:** Telok Ayer/Raffles Place **WHEN:** March 2, 7pm **PRICE:** \$89++ a person, bookings at bit.ly/2li5Tbp **TEL:** 6438-0258 **INFO:** E-mail capitalsquare@wineconnection.com

An Evening At PeraMakan With Veramonte Wines

Classic Nonya recipes by PeraMakan's fourth-generation Peranakan chef Kathryn Ho are featured in this dinner, paired with the wines of Vinedos Veramonte. Its Sauvignon Blanc carries a citrusy aroma meshed with floral notes. The Vinedos' Primus collection boasts a mixed-berries aroma with a velvety texture and volume. **WHERE:** Level 3 Keppel Club, 10 Bukit Chermin Road **MRT:** Telok Blangah **WHEN:** March 5, 7pm **PRICE:** \$118++ a person (\$94.40 for payment by Citi Cards) **TEL:** 6319-4038 **INFO:** E-mail asianmasters@sph.com.sg

World Of Song Whisky Dinner At The Song Of India

One-Michelin-starred restaurant The Song of India presents an evening of dishes by chef Manjunath Mural, paired with Jack Daniel's whisky and the bourbons of Woodford Reserve. Official car partner Infiniti will be showing its new QX50 before the dinner, which will feature dishes such as Chettinad Prawn, Malvani Mussels, Goan Fish, Crispy Okra, Hyderbadi Dal Makhani and Saffron Pulao. **WHERE:** The Song of India, 33 Scotts Road **MRT:** Newton **WHEN:** March 6, 7pm **PRICE:** \$108++ a person (\$86.40++ for payment by Citi cards) **TEL:** 6319-4038 **INFO:** E-mail asianmasters@sph.com.sg

FoodPicks

Wong Ah Yoke Senior Food Correspondent recommends



SPICE WEEKENDS UP WITH THAI SEMI-BUFFET BRUNCH

If you are a fan of Thai food, one way to spice up your weekends is to check out the new semi-buffet brunch at Baan Ying.

The Thai restaurant in Novena is a year-old branch of a well-known chain in Bangkok, where there are 10 outlets.

On weekends, the restaurant lays out a \$38.80 semi-buffet that features a spread of more than 10 appetisers, salads, side dishes and desserts.

The main course is cooked a la minute and diners choose one of four - grilled large river prawns, pan-fried salmon steak, Angus beef steak (about 150g) and bone-in Iberico pork chop (about 250g). They have to pay an extra \$9.80 for the pork chop, though.

The one I like most is the beef steak, which has such a delicious marinade that the accompanying spicy fish sauce dip is unnecessary.

The prawns are also tasty and come with crispy lemongrass "floss", which is made by dipping thin strips of

the aromatic herb in batter and deep-frying them.

On the buffet (above) are an assortment of dips called nam prik as well as a D-I-Y Thai salad station where you can whip up your own green papaya or mango salad. Soups such as tom yum chicken and curries are part of the spread as well.

Side dishes may include a delicious deep-fried pork item called Baan Ying white sesame pork. Another item I like is crispy fish flakes with mango salad dressing.

And for dessert, look out for rainbow ruby, which is like red rubies except the pieces of water chestnut come in various colours.

Those who do not have a sweet tooth will enjoy the coconut jelly, which is made with coconut water and pieces of coconut flesh.

WHERE: Baan Ying, 02-07, Royal Square @ Novena, 103 Irrawaddy Road **MRT:** Novena **WHEN:** 11am to 3pm (weekends) **PRICE:** \$38.80 an adult (top up \$29.80 for free flow of beer and wine), \$19.40 a child aged four to 10 (includes a juice) **TEL:** 9111-7852

REFRESHED MENU AT DOLCE VITA

Dolce Vita, the Italian restaurant at Mandarin Oriental Singapore, refreshed its menu last month with 10 new dishes from chef de cuisine Giorgio Maggioni.

During a recent tasting, my favourite is the pasta course.

Pappardelle features the thick ribbons of fresh pasta tossed with lamb ragout and topped with crispy strips of deep-fried artichoke.

At the table, a bit of pecorino cheese sauce is drizzled over it, but if you are averse to cheese, just ask the server to hold it.

I also tried two main courses that are pretty good.

Rombo consists of turbot fillet that is pan-seared and served with yellow endive, citrus fruit, cauliflower florets as well as puree, and garlic foam to complement rather than mask the sweetness of the firm-fleshed fish.



The other main course is Filetto, comprising pan-seared Tajima beef tenderloin (above) with chickpeas, confit shallot and red wine jus.

Tenderloin is a cut I find boring in its homogeneity, but the flavour of this

PHOTOS: BAAN YING, WONG AH YOKE



HOTPOT WITH YUMMY BROTHS

Yet another hotpot chain from China has opened as a franchise here. And Da Long Yi, which opened about four months ago at Orchard Central, trumps most of its compatriots in food quality. Its mala broth, which comes with oil (\$18) or

butter (\$22), has a spicy punch, while non-spicy soups such as mushroom and tomato taste natural and delicious from start to finish. The last two come with mala soup for \$18.

There is also something called Chinese sauerkraut (\$16), made with Sichuan pickled vegetable.

If you cannot decide, get the Benz (\$21), which lets you choose any three broths. The three-partitioned pot looks like the Mercedes-Benz three-point logo, hence the name.

This being a mid-priced restaurant, you will not find expensive meats such as Japanese wagyu. Instead, you get reasonably priced and decent marbled beef (\$26), Australian snow beef (\$20) and US beef (\$16).

If you like fiery flavours, you should try the spicy beef (\$15) meant for the mala broth. The beef is sliced thick and has a succulent texture. The spices stick to it even after cooking and create a burst of heat in the mouth.

There is also a non-spicy marinated beef (\$16). It has the same tender, succulent texture without the funny taste of chemical tenderisers.

The sliced beef tongue (\$20, above) comes plated as two pretty rosettes. Dunked in the broth for a minute or so, it gets firm but not tough and is delicious.

Not to be missed, too, are the Fuzhou fishballs (\$8) and beef meatballs (\$8), which are springy and juicy. In fact, you have to be careful eating the fishball because the juice from the meat filling may spurt out when you bite into it and it can be scalding.

WHERE: Da Long Yi Hotpot, 08-08 Orchard Central, 181 Orchard Road **MRT:** Somerset **OPEN:** 11 to 6am daily **TEL:** 6509-0002



MALAYSIAN BAK KUT TEH TREAT

If you like Malaysian bak kut teh, which has a herbal broth instead of the peppery soup that is popular here, Kee Hiong may be your thing.

An outpost from Malaysia, where it has been around since the 1960s, it has two outlets here in People's Park Centre and Alexandra Road.

The strong taste of herbs in the dark broth hits me hard at first, but it grows on me and I especially like the cooling tingle afternote.

For \$7, you get a bowl of spare ribs soup (above) with tender and tasty meat. Other options include big bone soup (\$9.50) and a dry bak kut teh (\$8.80) with soup on the side.

Servings are not big, so you should get some sides. Braised beancurd skin (\$2.80) and salted vegetables (\$2.20) would be good. Of course, you need some dough fritters (\$1.60) too.

WHERE: Kee Hiong, 01-05L People's Park Centre, 101 Upper Cross Street **MRT:** Chinatown **OPEN:** 11am to 8.30pm daily **TEL:** 6532-0380

ARTS

BOOKS

How To Fall In Love With Classics: The Garden Party By Katherine Mansfield

In Katherine Mansfield's short story, *The Garden Party* (1922), a young girl, Laura Sheridan, enjoys her wealthy family's garden party before visiting her working-class neighbours, where there has been a death. Dr Gwee Li Sui's lecture will discuss many of the themes related to Mansfield's distinct style of storytelling.

WHERE: Programme Zone, Central Public Library, Basement 1 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street
MRT: City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** Thu, 7 - 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg or go to nlb.gov.sg/golibrary

CONCERTS

SMU Chinese Orchestra Performance

Organised by Singapore Management University's Chinese Orchestra and presented as a radio show, the concert features an eclectic repertoire - from arrangements by local composers to famous traditional Chinese pieces. It will also feature guest soloists from the orchestra's frequent collaborator, The Purple Symphony. Home-grown magician Sng Ming Da will integrate magic tricks into a commissioned piece, *Trains Of Thoughts*.

WHERE: Sota Concert Hall, 1 Zubir Said Drive **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut/Bencoolen **WHEN:** March 3, 5 - 7pm
ADMISSION: \$15 **INFO:** E-mail smuco@sa.smu.edu.sg

NAC-ExxonMobil Concert In The Park

Singapore singers Derrick Hoh and Ling Kai will perform Mandopop songs, with a special pre-show music-dedication segment by home-grown band Cold Cut Duo.

WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens
WHEN: March 3, 4.30 - 6.30pm
ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

DANCE

Dresden Semperoper Ballet: Impressing The Czar

This is a four-act, award-winning, post-modern ballet choreographed by American dancer and choreographer William Forsythe. While this ballet has no linear narrative, it comments ironically and often humorously on the history of ballet and the economics of Western culture.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** March 15 & 16, 8pm
ADMISSION: \$40 - \$120 (students, full-time national servicemen & seniors: \$30 - \$50)
INFO: www.esplanade.com

EXHIBITIONS (MUSEUM)

Raffles In South-east Asia: Revisiting The Scholar And Statesman

This exhibition presents a complex and multi-layered picture of Sir Stamford Raffles while showcasing the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Java and the Malay world. The show is a collaboration between the British Museum and the Asian Civilisations Museum.

WHERE: Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place
WHEN: Till April 28, 10am - 7pm daily (till 9pm on Fridays)
ADMISSION: Singapore citizens & permanent residents: \$12 (free for students & seniors); foreign residents & tourists: \$20 (\$15 for students & seniors) **TEL:** 6332-7798
INFO: www.acm.org.sg

Straits Family Sunday: Hello, Goodbye, Hello Again

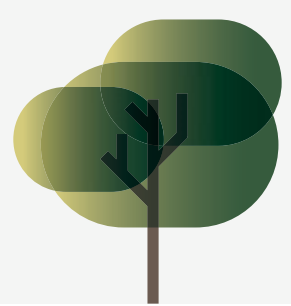
The Peranakan Museum will be holding its last Straits Family Sunday



What's Good
LOOKING AT THE UPSIDE

Share the upside of life in ST's Facebook group [str.sg/whatsgood](https://www.facebook.com/str.sg/whatsgood)

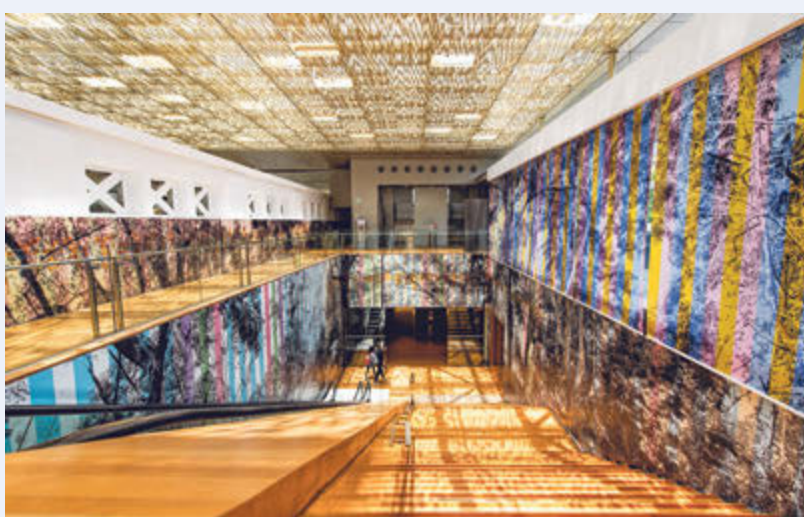
Read positive stories at our microsite [str.sg/stwhatsgood](https://www.str.sg/stwhatsgood)



ArtsPicks

Melissa Sim Assistant Life Editor recommends

PHOTOS: BERNIE NG, NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE, KARMEN WONG

**THE REGENCY MADE ME BLIND**

This collaborative project by Australian artist Gary Carsley, 62, and Singapore artist Jeremy Chu, 46, transforms a stairway in National Gallery Singapore into an immersive garden.

The images are digital composites of five colonial botanical gardens in South-east Asia (Hanoi, Manila, Bogor, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur).

The work is an invitation to visitors to take time to observe their surroundings, and provides respite from mundane everyday realities.

On what inspired him to create a garden in an enclosed space, Carsley says: "The stairs are like a series of cascading terraces that allows the imagination to conceive of them as garden-like. This gave me the idea for an immersive image that the visitor could navigate. A sort of active viewership that goes beyond just looking."

WHERE: Stairway to Padang Deck, City Hall Wing, Level 4 National Gallery Singapore, 1 St Andrew's Road **MRT:** City Hall **WHEN:** Ongoing
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.nationalgallery.sg

IT TAKES ALL KINDS

The Necessary Stage's Theatre for Seniors (TFS) celebrates its 10th anniversary with *It Takes All Kinds*, a heartwarming performance about love and families.

Developed in collaboration with Setagaya Public Theatre from Tokyo, the devised production is created by seniors and residents through workshops in which they explore their real-life experiences and perspectives on family.

Retiree Xin Suying, 70, says: "We had a session with the migrant-worker theatre group and I was so strangely disturbed by the struggles of their voyage to seek out a new land."

DON QUIXOTE

The Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) will open its 2019 season with *Don Quixote*, which was first presented by the company in 2014.

At the time, producing such an important work signalled a new maturity in the level of the SDT, from its artistry to the ability of its dancers, says the company's artistic director Janek Schergen.

He adds: "Performances grow and mature with repeated presentations and audiences can see more of the uniqueness and detail in every performance."

"Don Quixote is one of the 'jewels in the crown' that we possess and a ballet of the greatest joy and artistic sophistication."

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive
MRT: Esplanade/City Hall
WHEN: March 7 and 8, 8pm; March 9, 1 and 8pm; March 10, 1 and 7pm
ADMISSION: \$40 to \$80 from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg)
INFO: www.singaporedance theatre.com



"This reminded me of my father's lonely journey to Singapore as a young boy. Sharing my father's story helped to keep memories of him alive."

Alvin Tan, artistic director of The Necessary Stage and founder of TFS, adds: "The seniors are immersed in a creation process in which they have become co-authors of the work from beginning to end."

WHERE: Marine Parade Community Club Theatre, 278 Marine Parade Road **MRT:** Eunos **WHEN:** March 1, 8pm; March 2, 3 and 8pm; March 3, 3pm
ADMISSION: \$15 from ittakesallkinds.peatix.com
INFO: bit.ly/2T6qrrq

session before closing for a revamp. Enjoy free entry to programmes and the Amek Gambar: Peranakans & Photography exhibition.

WHERE: Peranakan Museum, 39 Armenian Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bras Basah **WHEN:** March 3, 1 - 5pm
ADMISSION: Free **TEL:** 6332-7591
INFO: www.peranakanmuseum.org.sg

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Living Nature: Alan Long's Solo Exhibition

Art Gallery Victoria is hosting Alan Long's solo exhibition, featuring his works in oil, water colour and ink.

WHERE: Art Gallery Victoria, 03-43 Bras Basah Complex, 231 Bain St **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis
WHEN: Tomorrow, from 3pm; Sun - Thu, 12.30 - 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free

Digital Art By TeamLab

This permanent exhibition by teamLab at Miaja Gallery, in collaboration with Ikkan Art Gallery, is inspired by themes about nature, life cycles, and the infinite movement of particles. It showcases digital artworks such as *Waves Of Light* and *Impermanent Life*.

WHERE: Miaja Gallery Level 2 APS Building, 9 Muthuraman Chetty Road **MRT:** Fort Canning **WHEN:** Mon - Sat, 10am - 7pm; Sun & public holidays by appointment only **ADMISSION:** Free
TEL: 6737-8865
INFO: www.miajagallery.com

We Hesitate To Wash Ourselves In Muddy Water

Artist and educator Mike Chang's *We Hesitate To Wash Ourselves In Muddy Water* is an installation project

of mechanical devices built into Telok Ayer Arts Club's wire-hanging system that periodically bounces metal wires off the wall.

WHERE: Telok Ayer Arts Club, 2 McCallum Street **MRT:** Telok Ayer
WHEN: Till April 12, Mon - Sat, 11am - 11pm **ADMISSION:** Free
TEL: 6221-0712
INFO: www.facebook.com/telokayerartsclub

EXHIBITIONS (SHOWS)

Natas Travel Fair

Natas Travel 2019 promises visitors a vast selection of travel choices, such as tour packages, customised tours and cruises, under one roof.

WHERE: Halls 5 & 6 Singapore Expo, 1 Expo Drive **MRT:** Expo
WHEN: Today - Sun, 10am - 9.30pm
ADMISSION: Free **TEL:** 6534-0187
INFO: E-mail events@natas.travel

Inter Airport South East Asia

This international exhibition for airport equipment, technology, design and services aims to deliver a vision of building better airports in South-east Asia.

WHERE: Hall 4A Singapore Expo, 1 Expo Drive **MRT:** Expo **WHEN:** Wed & Thu, 10am - 5pm; March 1, 10am - 4pm
ADMISSION: Free, register at bit.ly/2GCfhFc **INFO:** E-mail info@interairport-southeastasia.com

Start-up Career Fair

This career fair targeting students, fresh graduates, as well as professionals, managers, executives and technicians, will feature more than 65 companies offering 250

full-time, part-time and internship positions. Job-seekers will get to interact with start-up founders and take part in workshops, talks and on-site interviews.

WHERE: Ace Ideation Centre (01-13 Block 79) & The Meeting Point (Block 73B), JTC LaunchPad @ one-north, Ayer Rajah Crescent **MRT:** one-north
WHEN: March 7, 4 - 8pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: bit.ly/acescf2019

HDFC India Homes Fair

More than 23 developers will be represented at the HDFC India Homes Fair. Properties available are priced from three million rupees (S\$38,000).

WHERE: Singapore Swimming Club, 45 Tanjong Rhu Road **MRT:** Mountbatten
WHEN: March 9 & 10, 11am - 7.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.hdfc.com

THEATRE

Cash On Delivery

The Stage Club kicks off its 2019 season with a production of Michael Cooney's comedy, *Cash On Delivery*. Directed by Nick Perry, the story revolves around a married man who cheats the welfare system by claiming benefits for the people he pretends are staying at his address, and the ensuing farce when he is forced to prove that his lodgers are real.

WHERE: KC Arts Centre - Home of SRT, 20 Merbau Road **MRT:** Clarke Quay/ Fort Canning
WHEN: Today & tomorrow, 8pm
ADMISSION: \$42 (concession: \$22)
TEL: 6348-5555
INFO: www.sistic.com.sg

RS

There are many ways in which people are connected, whether it is through family, faith, love or even hatred. RS explores how these connections can bring different sets of emotions and consequences through exploring the perspectives of five acts.

WHERE: The Playtent Studio One, 02-01, 180 Joo Chiat Road **MRT:** Eunos/Dakota **WHEN:** Thu - March 1, 8pm; March 2 & 3, 3 & 8pm
ADMISSION: \$15 (\$13 for groups of five or more) **TEL:** 8126-5631
INFO: E-mail rs@theatreproduction.com outlook.com

Textures: The Page On Stage - Samping

Adapted from Cyril Wong's short story *The Mistake*, Samping takes the audience on a young Malay boy's journey through bereavement, longing, persecution and becoming a man.

WHERE: Back of Chamber, The Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** March 8, 8pm; March 9, 3 & 8pm; March 10, 3 & 7pm **ADMISSION:** \$20
INFO: www.peatix.com

First Storeys

First Storeys explores the kampung to metropolis narrative, focusing on the period of large-scale resettlement in Singapore from the 1950s to the 1990s.

WHERE: 300 Jalan Bukit Ho Swee **MRT:** Tiong Bahru **WHEN:** March 1 - 10, 7.30pm; March 3 & 10, extra 3pm show
ADMISSION: \$15 **TEL:** 9337-8240
INFO: E-mail jensongabriel1404@gmail.com or go to www.facebook.com/firststoreys

Film Picks



John Lui Film Correspondent recommends

DOOMSDAY (M18)
108 minutes/On Netflix/★★★★☆

This futuristic virus-outbreak thriller from 2008 has it all – exploding rabbits, a car crashing through a bus, cannibals with purple mohawks and gladiators hacking each other. English writer-director Neil Marshall blended everything he loved about Mad Max (1979), Escape From New York (1981) and Gladiator (2000) to make his homage to post-apocalypse movies. The story threatens to collapse under its own silliness at several points, but there is a cheekiness to it that sees it through to its messy conclusion.



A QUIET PLACE (PG13)
86 minutes/On HBO Go/★★★★☆

In this thriller about an Earth overrun by bear-sized bugs that hunt using sound, director, co-writer and co-star John Krasinski avoids the gimmick blighting the modern monster movie – kill one disposable character every 15 minutes. Within 15 minutes of opening, a terrible event happens, proving that no character, no matter how central, is safe. In doing so, Krasinski gives this thriller a sense of dread few monster movies of late have achieved. A Quiet Place will be available on HBO Signature on Tuesday at 4am, HBO on March 12 at 9pm, and HBO On Demand from March 18.



COLD PURSUIT (NC16)
119 minutes/Now showing/★★★★☆

In a role that cannot be said to be a stretch, Liam Neeson (above) plays a decent bloke with a set of skills that allows him to break a man's neck with not much more than a stern look. Nels Coxman (Neeson) operates a snowplough for a Colorado ski resort. His son is found dead from a drug overdose. Later, he is told his son may have been murdered by a mob boss nicknamed Viking (Tom Bateman). Coxman takes advantage of his record as an upstanding citizen and his knowledge of the mountains to take down the gang, one member at a time. What sets this thriller apart is that all the characters, good and evil, are invested with personalities and drive. There is much less focus on Neeson's one-man army than in a standard revenge flick.

PHOTOS:
PARAMOUNT
PICTURES, SHAW,
STUDIOCANAL
SAS

FILMS

Have A Nice Day (2018, PG13)
In this animated feature, Xiao Zhang, a driver, steals a bag containing one million yuan (\$200,000) from his boss to save his fiancée's botched plastic surgery. News of the robbery spreads fast and, over the course of one night, everyone looks for Xiao Zhang and the money. In Mandarin with English subtitles.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Today, 5.50pm & Sun, 2pm (Blue Room)
ADMISSION: \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession)
INFO: theprojector.sg

C'est La Vie! (2017, NC16)
A carefully planned magnificent wedding in a 17th-century chateau risks turning into a disaster after a series of unfortunate events. In French with English subtitles.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Today, 8pm & tomorrow, 4.30pm (Blue Room)
ADMISSION: \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession)
INFO: theprojector.sg

BlackKkKlansman (2018, NC16)
From visionary film-maker Spike Lee comes the incredible true story of an American hero. Produced by the team behind the Academy Award-winning Get Out (2017), BlackKkKlansman offers an unflinching, true-life examination of race relations in 1970s America that is just as bracingly relevant in today's tumultuous world.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway
WHEN: Sun, 4.40pm (Blue Room)
ADMISSION: \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession)
INFO: theprojector.sg

At Eternity's Gate (2018, PG13)
During a self-imposed exile in Arles and Auvers-sur-Oise, France, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh develops his unique, colourful style of painting.

While grappling with religion, mental illness and a tumultuous friendship with French artist Paul Gauguin, van Gogh begins to focus on his relationship with eternity rather than the pain his art causes him in the present.
WHERE: Shaw Theatres Lido, Levels 5/6 Shaw House, 350 Orchard Road
MRT: Orchard **WHEN:** Wed, 7pm
ADMISSION: \$18, free for Singapore Film Society members
TEL: 9017-0160 **INFO:** E-mail info@singaporefilmsociety.com

The Killing Of A Sacred Deer (2018, M18)
The Killing Of A Sacred Deer reunites director Yorgos Lanthimos with The Lobster (2015) star Colin Farrell, who plays Steven, a charismatic surgeon forced to make an unthinkable sacrifice after his life starts to fall apart and the behaviour of a teenage boy he has taken under his wing turns sinister. Co-starring Nicole Kidman, Alicia Silverstone, Barry Keoghan and Raffey Cassidy.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway
WHEN: Wed, 7.40pm (Blue Room)
ADMISSION: \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession)
INFO: theprojector.sg

Eden (2014, M18)
Based on the experiences of director Mia Hansen-Love's brother Sven, the film follows Paul, a teenager in the underground scene of early 1990s Paris. Rave parties dominate that culture, but he is drawn to the more soulful rhythms of Chicago's garage house. He forms a DJ collective named Cheers and together, he and his friends plunge into the ephemeral nightlife of sex, drugs and endless music.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway
WHEN: March 1, 7pm (Green Room)
ADMISSION: \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession)
INFO: theprojector.sg

NATURE

Olympus Field Test For Bird Photographers
This field test of the new pro wildlife and birding Olympus OM-D E-MIX camera paired with the 300mm F4 Pro lens is organised by Olympus Singapore and the Bird Group of Nature Society (Singapore) (NSS).
WHERE: Satay by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive **MRT:** Bayfront
WHEN: March 2, 8am - noon
ADMISSION: Free for NSS members (go to nss.org.sg for membership details) **INFO:** E-mail Kerry at kerry@nss.org.sg to register

Biodiversity Guided Walk At Jurong Lake Gardens
Join this guided walk to appreciate the animals, plants and trees around Jurong Lake Gardens.
WHERE/MRT: Jurong Lake Gardens, entrance nearest to Chinese Garden **MRT** station **WHEN:** March 2, 8.30 - 10.30am **ADMISSION:** Free, register at nparks.gov.sg **TEL:** 6267-0157 **INFO:** E-mail jeremy_wl_yeo@nparks.gov.sg

PETS

Basic Obedience Foundation Class For Dogs
This class, organised by Action For Singapore Dogs (ASD), incorporates the Amichien Bonding principles, which are the foundation of an owner-dog relationship. Participants will also learn effective techniques of communication.
WHERE: Bishan Park II (beside Aramsa Spa), Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1 **MRT:** Ang Mo Kio/Bishan **WHEN:** From March 3, 2.30 - 4pm (every Sun for six sessions)
ADMISSION: \$350 (\$250 for ASD adopter) **TEL:** 6100-2737 **INFO:** E-mail info@asdsingapore.com

TOURS

Learning Forest Tour
The Learning Forest features a network of boardwalks and elevated

walkways that allow visitors to explore habitats, ranging from a freshwater forest wetland to a lowland rainforest. Visitors can learn about freshwater forest wetland ecosystems at the Keppel Discovery Wetlands and walk among some of the tallest tree species in South-east Asia at the SPH Walk of Giants.
WHERE: Visitor Services at Tyersall Gate, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens
WHEN: March 9, 9 - 10am
ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

Guided Walk Of Chinatown Heritage Tree Trail
Chinatown is the largest historic district in Singapore and home to several heritage trees. Get up close with the bodhi tree (Ficus religiosa), which is closely associated with Hinduism and Buddhism, and learn about a native mango, the binjai (Mangifera caesia), which produces a curious potato-like fruit.
WHERE/MRT: Meet at Outram Park **MRT** station Exit H **WHEN:** March 16, 9 - 11am **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_Urban_Gardening@nparks.gov.sg

KIDS

Sara Goes Gardening (A Guided Tour)
Sara the Botanicosaurus, her siblings and friends are going to discover the joy of gardening at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Find out fascinating facts and stories about aloe vera, lemongrass, garlic, spring onion and many more herbs and spices. Also, pick up gardening tips on how to grow your favourite plants in your own kitchen garden.
WHERE: Visitor Services Desk at Jacob Ballas Children's Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens
WHEN: Tomorrow, 10 - 11am
ADMISSION: \$9 a child (includes \$3 Sara Goes Gardening Workbook); \$6

for each accompanying adult, register at www.nparks.gov.sg
INFO: E-mail nparks_sbg_edu@nparks.gov.sg

Gretel And Hansel
Based on the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, Gretel And Hansel is a story about sibling rivalry, family love, courage and understanding what it means to be a big sister. It will encourage children to work together, appreciate their siblings and understand the importance of family love. Recommended for children from age four.
WHERE: KC Arts Centre – Home of SRT, 20 Merbau Road **MRT:** Fort Canning
WHEN/ADMISSION: From March 13, 10am (weekdays: \$26 - \$29) & 11am (weekends & public holidays: \$36 - \$49), tickets at srt.com.sg
TEL: 6221-5585 **INFO:** E-mail office@srt.com.sg

OTHERS

Canadian International School Steam Fair
Invent, design and create at Canadian International School's annual Steam Fair. Enjoy a range of fun, hands-on Steam (Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship, Arts and Mathematics) workshops and activities for all age groups, a soccer league, a bazaar, carnival rides, refreshments, massages, and music performed by the school's students.
WHERE: Lakeside Campus, 7 Jurong West Street 41 **MRT:** Chinese Garden/
Lakeside **WHEN:** March 2, 11am - 3pm
ADMISSION: Free **TEL:** 6734-8088
INFO: www.cis.edu.sg/steamfair19

LAST CALL

An Enchanted Evening With Nanyang Songbird Yudi Yap
Take a trip down memory lane and relive the golden years with some of the best-loved songs of the Nanyang region with evergreen singer Yudi Yap. She will perform jazzy renditions of classics such as Rose Rose I Love

You, Dayung Sampan, Tian Mi Mi, Liu Lian Piao Xiang and Aiyomama.
WHERE: Esplanade Annexe Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Today, 8pm
ADMISSION: \$30
INFO: www.esplanade.com

Downtown East Outdoor Movie Screening: Wall-E (2008, G)
In the distant future, a waste-collecting robot embarks on a journey that will decide the fate of mankind. There will be free rainbow popcorn and nachos and cheese.
WHERE: Open Plaza 2 (outside D'Marquee @ Downtown East), 1 Pasir Ris Close **MRT:** Pasir Ris
WHEN: Tomorrow, 7.30 - 10pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: downtowneast.com.sg

Alice, Bob & Eve
Alice, Bob & Eve is a movement research "living laboratory" hidden in a gallery space, probing how digital technologies choreograph people's movements in society. Over four hours, witness how Alice, Bob and Eve accumulate and analyse forms of data while mediating between humanising machines and coding humans.
WHERE: Sota Gallery, Level 2 School of the Arts Singapore, 1 Zubir Said Drive
MRT: Dhoby Ghaut/Bencoolen
WHEN: Today & tomorrow, 4.30 - 8.30pm **ADMISSION/INFO:** \$16 - \$20, go to alicebove.peatix.com

• The listings on these Happenings pages are free. Write to Life Happenings, Life, The Straits Times, 1000 Toa Payoh North, Singapore 318994 or e-mail stlife@sph.com.sg at least two weeks ahead. Include the name of the event, organiser, venue, date and time, ticket prices and nearest MRT station, as well as your name, address and contact number. We reserve the right to edit or reject items. Go to www.straitstimes.com (click on Lifestyle) for more listings.

Artistic director of The Substation stepping down

Ong Sor Fern
Senior Culture Correspondent



The Substation's artistic director Alan Oei (left) is leaving the arts venue by the end of the year.

The 42-year-old told The Straits Times he would be returning to his art practice after leaving The Substation.

Before he took on the post, the artist-curator was known for creating the quirky OH! Open House tours, in which home owners opened their homes to host artworks for public tours. Open House is an ongoing concern, with a new programme lined up for next month.

On his four-year tenure at the independent arts venue, Oei said: "When I came in, it was with a plan to explore the city and 2019 is the concluding year."

Programmes such as 2016's Each Blade Of Grass Each Shrub Each Tree, inspired by the debate over the Cross Island Line, and 2017's Discipline The City, which explored the politics of space, were part of such explorations.

For the rest of this year, he added, The Substation programme will investigate the new public space that has opened up in front of it. The stretch of Armenian Street has been closed to traffic and redeveloped as a new urban park by National Parks Board.

Although he is staying on till the end of the year, The Substation has already announced its search for a new artistic director on its Facebook page. It posted a call for applicants last Friday.

Oei said the early call was to avoid a leadership vacuum. "Finding an artistic director takes a long time. If you can find an artistic director early, he or she can plan programmes early as well. The Substation has a policy of appointing artists to lead the space. And the incoming director will have a longer runway to learn how things work in The Substation."

Mr Chew Kheng Chuan, chairman of The Substation's board of directors, added: "I appreciate his giving us the time to commence the critical process of identifying his successor as early as possible, to allow the organisation to manage the transition to the sixth artistic director without a disruptive lacuna."

Before Oei came on board in 2015, The Substation faced a nine-month gap in leadership after the previous artistic director, Noor Effendy Ibrahim, stepped down.

Mr Chew acknowledged Oei's contribution to the space, which was founded in 1990 by the late drama doyen Kuo Pao Kun.

He said: "Under his tenure, which continues until the end of the year, programmes have been designed to extend beyond the arts and connect with Singapore at large. This effort to foster engagement and discussion on a broader level has helped to reposition The Substation as a relevant voice in our rapidly changing arts ecosystem."

Oei's early decision to phase out venue rental and review programming at The Substation upset some members of the arts community, who saw the changes as anathema to the institution's roots as a berth for experimental art-making.

Some remain critical of Oei.

Poet Cyril Wong, who was a programme manager at The Substation from 2002 to 2008, said: "His tenure has turned The Substation into an overly inward organisation, closed off from much of the different performance art forms."

"The Substation used to be a conscientiously inclusive arts organisation that encouraged collaboration between different kinds of artists, especially artists who weren't easily classified."

"It was a space for difference and for artistic growth and development; for artists to try new things and talk meaningfully to one other, especially between genres and generations of artists."

But some are supportive of the changes Oei has introduced. Composer Song-Ming Ang said: "There are plenty of expectations that can weigh down anyone directing the oldest independent arts space in Singapore, but Alan directed it with boldness and a strong sense of focus and adventure. The programmes he put out speak for themselves – at once thoughtful, creative, complex and inclusive."

"The Substation was always meant to be an experimental, welcoming space to cater to the needs of young, local artists and various alternative communities. I think he's fulfilled this mandate extremely well."

• www.facebook.com/OngSorFern

(From left)
Reena Koh of
Dunman
High School,
Amritha Devaraj
of Crescent
Girls' School,
Xiao Wen of
Nanyang Girls'
High School and
Max Kok of
Evergreen
Secondary
School lend
their voices on
Xin Kong
Xia 2019.

PHOTO:
LIANHE ZAOBAO



Students show their love of xinyao

A newly launched digital album features winning tracks from a national singing and songwriting contest

Jan Lee

Amritha Devaraj may be of Indian descent, but that does not stand in the way of her love of xinyao – a home-grown Chinese folk song movement.

The 15-year-old student of Crescent Girls' School, who speaks her native tongue of Malayalam at home, began studying Chinese as a second language in primary school. She currently takes Higher Chinese as a subject.

"My teacher told me about this

competition and that was how I began listening to Chinese music," she said, referring to the National Schools Xinyao Singing and Songwriting Competition. "Now, I've become interested in Mandarin pop music."

Amritha, who joined the competition's singing category last year, is one of the featured singers on Xin Kong Xia 2019 – a digital album launched yesterday at the Ministry of Education by Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Manpower Low Yen Ling.

The album – the first released from the competition – combines winning tracks from the past two years.

All 15 songs and three music videos will be made available on www.cpccl.sg. The album's title follows the name of the competition in Chinese, which references Eric Moo's song Starry Sky (1984), which reads as Xing Kong Xia.

Amritha lends her voice to the

track, Raintree, which was composed and penned by 14-year-old Xiao Wen from Nanyang Girls' High School.

Xiao Wen won last year's songwriting (creative) category – meant for songs inspired by the Chinese curriculum in school.

The fifth edition of the competition, which is open to students from secondary schools to universities, will kick off in June.

It is organised by the Committee to Promote Chinese Language Learning (CPCLL) and co-organised by Lianhe Zaobao, Jurong Pioneer Junior College and xinyao concert organiser TCR Music Station.

New elements will be introduced by the organisers this year "to allow our children to find their own, new voice of creative expression", said Ms Low, who also chairs the CPCLL.

"One way to do that is to allow them the latitude and freedom to compose their own songs," she added.

The new edition will add a semi-finals round to the songwriting segment, so that more students can get to perform their works in front of a live audience.

A one-day music workshop in past years featuring mentors such as local xinyao pioneers Roy Loi and Chen Jiaming will also be extended to a two-day music camp.

Students taking part in this year's singing category can also opt to sing tracks from the new album.

TCR Music Station's founder Cai Yiren is optimistic that the competition can help cultivate new talents in the local Chinese music scene.

He said: "From the point of view of a musician, the students are producing quality music and lyrics, so we are pleased."

"The best way to cultivate more young talents is to reach out to students and engage them."

janlee@sph.com.sg

Bold adventure of discovery at a whisky bar

REVIEW/THEATRE

HUAYI 2019: FOUR FOUR EIGHT
Emergency Stairs
The ExciseMan Whisky Bar/Tuesday

Benson Ang

Inspired by the late British playwright Sarah Kane's last play, 4.48 Psychosis, this new work, which explores themes such as isolation and the artistic process of creation, is much more palatable and accessible than previous work from Liu Xiaoyi, a China-born theatre practitioner who moved to Singapore in 1998.

Part of this year's Huayi – Chinese Festival Of Arts, presented by the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, the show runs in and around The ExciseMan Whisky Bar at the Esplanade Mall until tomorrow.

It is the third instalment in a series whose works – 2017's Offending The Audience and last year's Einstein In The Carpark – were noted for interesting ideas, but an inability to connect with some audience members.

Third time is a charm, it seems, as Four Four Eight strikes the careful balance of bold boundary-pushing without alienating or befuddling theatre goers.

Not merely a theatre performance, it feels more like a series of mini-experiences with the artist, challenging the limits of theatre beyond the performance's time and space.

For example, before the show,



Participants enter a room within the bar, where theatre practitioner Liu Xiaoyi is writing messages on sticky notes and drinking wine.

PHOTO: ESPLANADE – THEATRES ON THE BAY

participants are invited to write to Liu via e-mail, and the reply I received was a nostalgic anecdote about his first Chinese New Year spent in Singapore, drinking alcohol on a grass field.

The start and end of the performance is decided by the participant. It is also almost entirely a choose-your-own-adventure experience in and around The ExciseMan Whisky Bar, guided by instructions in a book containing poetry in English and Chinese.

One set of instructions takes participants to a small room within the bar, where Liu is writing messages on sticky notes and drinking wine.

As with such experiences, one gets what one puts in. Skim the text,

go through the motions and one will not gain much.

But during a performance on Tuesday, I dwelt long and hard on some stanzas – re-reading and comparing how they were expressed across both languages – and the whole encounter took me almost three hours.

What an illuminating experience it was.

Some instructions directly ask participants to ponder aspects of themselves, or others, which can be uncomfortable. I found myself doing something I have not done in a while – thinking about a former boss who died a few years ago.

That such reflection could be done at the participant's own pace allowed the work space to breathe

and unfold.

That it was staged in an actual bar – with other participants and non-theatre patrons having a relaxing night out – gave the encounter added dimension, with everyone's spontaneous gestures and mannerisms on display.

They were the actors, and so was I, homing in on the message that in life, we are all performers.

This work is also perhaps Liu's most personal, featuring several documents and articles from his life, seemingly as an invitation to contemplate one's own.

The result? An innovative, interactive dialogue which challenges the audience, but does not leave them in the cold.

MY HUBBY, MY KIDNEY DONOR

Yishun couple celebrate Valentine's Day after December transplant

Catch us online at www.tabla.com.sg

Comics

BABY BLUES



GARFIELD



Free to air

CHANNEL 5

AM
6.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16 (PG) (V)
7.00 First Look Asia (Simulcast From CNA) (CA)
9.00 The Dr Oz Show 10 (PG) (IE)
10.00 Films & Stars (PG) (V)
10.30 Everyday Gourmet 3 (HD) (IE)
11.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16 (PG) (V)
PM
12.00 Bondi Harvest With Guy Turland (IE)
12.30 Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Cookery Course (IE)
1.00 Wheel Of Fortune 36 (CC) (V)
1.30 Kin (PG) (CC) (D)
2.00 Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd 4 (SC)
2.30 Talking Point 2018 (HD) (CA)
3.00 The Dr Oz Show 10 (PG) (IE)
4.00 Rojak (PG) (SC)
4.30 Survivor 37 (PG) (V)
5.30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16 (PG) (V)
6.30 Just For Laughs Gags 18 (V)
6.50 DOA: Dead Or Alive (PG) (CC) (M)
8.30 Kin (PG) (CC) (D)
9.00 News 5
9.30 On The Red Dot – Risky Business (CC) (CA)
10.00 ONE Championship 2018/19: Call To Greatness (Singapore) (PG13) (Sports) (Live)
11.30 Atomic Shark (PG13) (M)
AM
1.10 Kin (PG) (CC) (D)
1.40 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16 (PG) (V)
2.30 Hawaii Five-0 7 (PG) (D)
3.20 Lethal Weapon (PG) (D)
4.10 Bondi Harvest With Guy Turland (IE)
4.40 Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Cookery Course (IE)
5.10 The Dr Oz Show 10 (PG) (IE)

CHANNEL 8

AM
6.00 The Next (V)
7.30 Hello Singapore Highlights (HD) (CA)
8.00 Walk With Me (PG) (CC) (D)
9.00 Morning Express (News)
9.30 Jalan Jalan (PG) (CC) (D)
10.00 Focus (CC) (CA)
10.30 The Amorous Lotus Pan (Chinese Opera)

11.30 How Are You? (PG) (CC) (D)
PM
12.30 JML Home Shopping (Infomercial)
1.00 News 8 At One
1.30 118 (PG) (CC) (D)
2.00 Cookie Master (SC)
2.30 The Precedents (PG) (D)
3.30 Golden Age Talentime (CC) (V)
4.30 Taste Of Life (PG) (D)
5.30 When Duty Calls (PG) (CC) (D)
6.30 Hello Singapore (News)
7.30 Jalan Jalan (PG) (CC) (D)
8.00 Budget Forum 2019 (CA)
9.00 Walk With Me (PG) (CC) (D)
10.00 News Tonight
10.30 Food And Beverage Investigators 8 (IE)
11.00 Princess Agents (PG) (D)
AM
12.00 The Princess Weiyoung (PG) (D)
1.00 Lady Investigators (D)
2.00 Fiery Passion (D)
4.00 A Place Called Home (PG) (D)

CHANNEL U

PM
3.00 Chinese Dating (V)
4.30 King Of The Kitchens (IE)
5.00 Cheongdamdong Scandal (PG) (CC) (D)
6.00 The Girl Who Sees Smells (PG) (CC) (D)
7.00 My Father Is Strange (PG) (CC) (D)
9.00 Taiwan's 1001 Stories 2 (IE) (Debut)
10.00 Brother's Keeper 2 (PG13) (CC) (D)
11.00 News Tonight
11.30 Taiwan's 1001 Stories 2 (IE) (Debut)
AM
12.30 My Father Is Strange (PG) (CC) (D)
2.30 Close

CNA

AM
6.00 Singapore Tonight
7.00 First Look Asia
9.00 Asia Business First
10.02 Champions For Change
11.00 News Now
PM
1.02 Insight
2.00 News Now
4.02 Ask The Finance Minister 2019
5.00 News Now
7.02 Wild City (CC)

8.00 Primetime Asia
9.02 Conversation With (CC)
9.30 Super Octogenarians
10.00 Singapore Tonight
11.02 Insight
AM
12.00 News Now
12.30 Asia Business First Weekend
1.02 Conversation With
1.30 Super Octogenarians
2.00 News Now
2.30 Correspondents' Diary
3.02 Champions For Change
4.00 News Now
4.30 Correspondents' Diary
5.02 Conversation With
5.30 Super Octogenarians
Programmes may be pre-empted by breaking news

VASANTHAM

PM
3.00 Super Samalay 4 (IE)
3.30 Anjaraipetti 5 (IE)
4.00 Priyasakhi (D)
4.30 Vasantham Express 5 (IE)
5.30 Mighty Raju Animation Series (S)
6.00 Suryaputhri 2 (PG) (D)
7.00 Arinthum Ariyaamalum (S)
7.30 Janani D/O Madhavan (CC) (S)
8.00 Uyire (PG) (CC) (D)
8.30 Tamil Seithi (News)
9.00 Indian Beat 9 (HD) (CC) (IE)
9.30 Alli Thanda Vaanam (PG) (CC) (M)
AM
12.30 Tamil Seithi (News) (R)
1.00 Close

OKTO

AM
9.00 Justin Time (P)
9.30 Teddies (P)
10.00 Guess How Much I Love You (P)
10.30 Sesame Street (P)
11.00 Mouk (P)
11.30 Ready Jet Go! (P)
PM
12.00 Hiccup & Sneeze (P)
12.30 Teddies (P)
1.00 Rob The Robot (P)
1.30 Justin Time (P)
2.00 Guess How Much I Love You (P)
2.30 Sesame Street (P)

3.00 Mouk (P)
3.30 Ready Jet Go! (P)
4.00 Odd Squad (S)
4.30 Shutterbugs (S)
5.00 Littlest Pet Shop (S)
5.30 Marcus Level (S)
6.00 The New Powerpuff Girls (S)
6.30 Whoopie's World (D)
7.00 My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic (CC) (S)
7.30 Miraculous: Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir (S)
8.00 Turning Mecard (CC) (S)
8.30 Inazuma Eleven (CC) (S)
9.00 Perfection (CC) (Sports)
9.30 ONE Championship 2018/19: ONE Warrior Series 2 (HD) (Sports)
10.00 ONE Championship 2018/19: Call To Greatness (Singapore) (PG13) (Live) (Sports)
11.30 ONE Championship Weekly (HD) (PG13) (Sports)
AM
12.00 Close

SURIA

PM
4.00 Bibik-Bibikku (PG) (D)
5.00 Kultus (PG) (CC) (D)
6.00 Kem Tahan (IE)
6.30 Taste Selebriti (IE)
7.00 Makmum Yang Paling Aku Cinta (PG) (CC) (D)
8.00 Berita (News)
8.30 Mamaku Sayang (PG) (CC) (S) (Finale)
9.00 Generasi Merdeka: Tangan Yang Membentuk Negara (IE)
9.30 Buang Tabiat (CC) (D) (Debut)
10.30 Mek Minyak (PG) (CC) (Telemovie)
AM
12.30 Berita (News)
1.00 Close

C: Children; CA: Current Affairs; CC: Closed Captions; Cul: Culture; D: Drama; IE: Info-Ed; M: Movies; P: Preschool; PG: Parental Guidance; R: Repeat; S: Schoolkids; SC: Sitcom; V: Variety

Programme schedules correct at time of printing. Telecast details from Mediacorp, StarHub and Singtel TV. For pay TV updates, go to www.starhub.com/tv or www.singtelv.com.sg

StarHub TV

HISTORY (CHANNEL 401)

AM
9.30 Forged In Fire 5
10.25 History Drama: Knightfall
11.20 Navy Seals – Combat Rescue
PM
12.15 The Curse Of Oak Island 4
1.10 America's War On Drugs
3.00 Storage Wars 11
3.30 Navy Seals – Combat Rescue
4.25 Forged In Fire: Knife Or Death
5.20 Forged In Fire 5
6.15 Swamp People 8
7.10 Pawn Stars 19
8.05 Storage Wars: Texas 5
8.30 Storage Wars 11
9.00 Mountain Men 6
9.55 Alone 4
10.50 Kingpin

LIFETIME (CHANNEL 514)

AM
9.00 Gok's Fill Your House For Free
10.00 Growing Up Supermodel
11.00 Upl! Pretty
PM
12.00 Dance Moms 7
1.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
2.00 A Killer Among Us
3.35 Born This Way 2
4.30 Little Women LA: Terra's Little Family 2
5.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
6.00 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown 2
7.00 Making A Model With Yolanda Hadid
8.00 The Rap Game 3
9.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16
10.00 We Have Your Husband
11.35 Man Vs Child: Chef Showdown 2

HBO (CHANNEL 601)

AM
7.35 Year Of The Dog (PG)
9.10 Alice Through The Looking Glass (PG)
11.00 Master Of The Nine Dragon Fist: Wong Ching-Ho (NC16)
PM
12.45 Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen (PG)
3.10 Crashing 3 (NC16)
3.40 Down With Love (PG)
5.20 Planes: Fire & Rescue (PG)
6.45 Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens (PG)
9.00 Cowboys & Aliens (NC16)
10.55 The 15:17 To Paris (NC16)

CINEMAX (CHANNEL 611)

AM
8.10 Streets Of Fire
9.40 Against The Ropes
11.30 48 Hrs
PM
1.05 The Disappearance (NC16)
1.50 Hollywood Homicide (PG)
3.45 Spy Kids (PG)
5.20 Vanilla Sky

7.35 Black Hawk Down (NC16)
10.00 The Bad Seed (2018) (NC16)
11.30 Scream (M18)

HUB E CITY (CHANNEL 825)

AM
8.15 Hot Door Night 16 (HD)
9.15 Dowry (HD)
10.15 Super Boys 2 (HD)
11.45 Fun Abroad (HD)
PM
12.15 Still Loving You (HD)
1.30 Chicago Typewriter (HD)
2.45 Sound Of My Dream 2 (HD)
4.45 Still Loving You (HD)
6.00 Dowry (HD)
7.00 Hot Door Night 16 (HD)
8.00 Mr Player 7 (HD)
10.00 Singer 2019 (Live) (HD)

HUB SPORTS 1 (CHANNEL 201)

AM
10.00 Tennis: ATP Champions Tour 2018
10.30 Tennis: Fed Cup By BNP Paribas 2019 First Round Czech Republic Vs Romania
PM
2.00 Tennis: ATP World Tour Uncovered 2019
2.30 Spirit Of Yachting 2018
3.00 Mountain Bike: Crankworx World Tour 2018: Whistler Highlights
4.00 BMX Supercross 2017: Lane 1
5.00 Cycling: 2019 Santos Tour Down Highlights
6.00 Tennis: ATP 500 Rio Open Presented By Claro 2019

HUB SPORTS 2 (CHANNEL 202)

AM
9.30 Football: The EFL Highlights 2018/19
10.00 Football: Coppa Italia 2018/19 Quarter-finals Inter Milan Vs Lazio
PM
12.00 Magazine: Omnisport.TV
12.30 Asean Basketball League 2018/19 Macau Black Bears Vs Hong Kong Eastern
2.30 Football: EFL Carabao Cup 2018 Semi-finals 2 Leg 1 Manchester City Vs Burton Albion
4.30 Wrestling: WWE Smackdown (PG)
6.00 Magazine: Trans World Sport 2019
7.00 The Football Review
7.30 Magazine: Omnisport.TV
8.00 Fiba World Basketball 2019
8.30 Basketball Asean Basketball League 2018/19 Westports Malaysia Dragons Vs Singapore Slingers (Live)
10.30 Wrestling: WWE Bottomline (PG)
11.30 Magazine: Omnisport.TV
AM
12.00 Wrestling: WWE Smackdown (PG)
1.30 Fiba World Basketball 2019
2.00 Football: Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership 2018/19 Highlights
2.30 Magazine: The Burning Issue
3.00 Magazine: Omnisport.TV
3.30 Fiba World Basketball 2019
3.40 Football: Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership 2018/19 Round 27 Dundee Vs Hibernian (Live)

Singtel TV

CARTOON NETWORK (CHANNEL 226)

AM
6.00 Oggy & The Cockroaches
7.00 The Tom And Jerry Show
8.00 Teen Titans Go!
9.00 Grizzly And The Lemmings
9.30 The Tom And Jerry Show
10.00 We Bare Bears
10.30 Supernobots
11.00 The Powerpuff Girls
PM
12.00 Teen Titans Go!
1.00 We Bare Bears
2.00 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
2.30 Craig Of The Creek
3.00 Rat-A-Tat
3.30 The Amazing World Of Gumball
4.00 We Bare Bears
4.30 The Powerpuff Girls
5.00 Teen Titans Go!
5.30 Craig Of The Creek
6.00 Apple & Onion
6.30 Unikitty
7.00 Summer Camp Island
8.00 We Bare Bears
9.00 The Powerpuff Girls
10.00 Summer Camp Island
11.00 Clarence
11.30 Adventure Time

AXN (HD) (CHANNEL 304)

AM
6.00 Hawaii Five-0 7
6.50 Seal Team
7.40 American Ninja Warrior 7
9.25 Hawaii Five-0 7
10.20 Seal Team
11.10 The Amazing Race 30
PM
1.00 Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior
1.55 American Ninja Warrior 7
2.50 Hawaii Five-0 7
3.40 Seal Team
4.30 The Amazing Race 30
6.20 MacGyver 3
7.15 Instinct
8.05 Identity
9.55 Bad Boys

WARNER TV (HD) (CHANNEL 306)

AM
6.00 Blindspot 3
6.50 Major Crimes 5
7.35 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow 3
8.25 Person Of Interest 4
9.15 The Flash 4
10.05 Blindspot 3
10.55 Almost Genius
11.45 Unknown
PM
1.50 Friends 10
2.20 Blindspot 3
3.10 Almost Genius

4.00 The Flash 4
4.50 Person Of Interest 4
5.40 Major Crimes 5
6.25 The Flash 4
7.15 The Big Bang Theory 11
7.40 Friends 10
8.10 The Big Bang Theory 12
8.35 Young Sheldon 2
9.00 Gotham 5
9.50 Man Of Steel

COMEDY CENTRAL ASIA (HD) (CHANNEL 324)

AM
6.00 At Midnight With Chris Hardwick 2
6.25 The Daily Show 24
6.55 Just For Laughs Gags 14
7.20 Mr Bean
7.55 Most Ridiculous 2
8.20 Amazingness
8.45 Mr Bean
9.15 Caraoke Showdown
9.40 Just For Laughs Gags 12
10.05 Hot In Cleveland 2
10.55 Mr Bean
11.25 Saturday Night Live 43
PM
12.15 The Daily Show 24
12.40 The Goldbergs 5
1.30 Hot In Cleveland 6
2.20 Saturday Night Live 43
3.10 The Jim Jefferies Show
4.25 Above Average Presents
4.30 The Goldbergs 5
5.20 Hot In Cleveland 6
6.10 The Daily Show 24
6.35 Above Average Presents
6.40 Your Face Or Mine 3
7.10 Amazingness
7.35 Above Average Presents
7.40 Billy On The Street 4
8.10 Most Ridiculous 2
9.00 The Goldbergs 5
9.50 Hot In Cleveland 6
10.35 Inside Amy Schumer
11.00 The Jim Jefferies Show
11.25 Above Average Presents
11.30 The Daily Show 24

JIA LE (HD) (CHANNEL 502)

AM
6.00 Taste Of Love
7.00 The Destiny Of White Snake
8.00 King Of Blaze
9.00 Eagle And Youngster
10.00 100% Wife
PM
12.10 The Destiny Of White Snake
1.00 In The Name Of Love
2.00 100% Wife
4.10 King Of Blaze
5.00 The Destiny Of White Snake
6.00 In The Name Of Love
7.00 100% Wife
9.10 The Destiny Of White Snake
10.00 King Of Blaze
11.00 Eagle And Youngster

TheStarsSay

Aries (March 21 – April 19)
If you listen carefully, you should be able to get at what other people are saying to you.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)
Pay attention to your health. Your energy is just right for making sure you feel better generally.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)
Your mental and social energies are in sync and you might find that your spiritual path feels clearer.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)
Differing ideas might lead to conflict. Find a way for everyone to agree to disagree for the time being.

Leo (July 23 – Aug 22)
It is a day when you can feel the difference between nervous tension and decisive action, so get busy.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)
Try not to go it alone because you need to do things with others to find success.

Libra (Sept 23 – Oct 22)
You are getting the right kind of attention, so make sure you are in the right place for serious business.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
Now is not the time to take direct action. Bend like a reed in the wind to come out ahead instead.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
A good laugh follows a good time. Try to get that one sad or quiet friend to see the lighter side of things.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
An authority figure is causing things to be difficult. Harness your argumentative skills to make your case.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)
Engage yourself with personal business and make sure you are handling all the stuff that pops up.

Pisces (Feb 19 – March 20)
Debt is a real issue, so throw all your resources at clearing it.

• Provided by Astrology.com (www.astrology.com)

Radio

KISS92

AM
6.00 Maddy, Jason & Arnold In The Morning
10.00 Weekdays With Carol Smith
PM
1.00 Weekdays With Charmaine Yee
4.00 On The Drive Home With Shan Wee
8.00 Josh's Goodnight Kiss

ONE FM 91.3

AM
6.00 Glenn & The Flying Dutchman
10.00 The Middy Brew With Charmaine Phua
PM
1.00 Afternoon Tune Up With Cheryl Miles
4.00 The Weekday Getaway With Divian Nair
8.00 Love Songs With Simon Lim

MONEY FM 89.3

AM
6.00 The Breakfast Huddle With Elliott Danker & Finance Presenter Ryan Huang
10.00 Midday With Howie Lim
PM
2.00 Prime Time With Claressa Monteiro
4.00 The Curve With Michelle Martin & Bernard Lim

UFM100.3

AM
6.00 UFM100.3 Mornings With Wenhong, Limei & Xiaozhu
10.00 Lively Life With Kevin
PM
1.00 Tea With Yuling
4.00 Sing-a-long With Xinying & Weilong
8.00 Feel The Night With Chengyao

96.3 HAO FM

AM
6.00 Morning Drive Time With Jing Yun, De Ming And Jie Qi
10.00 Lunch Break With Anna
PM
1.00 Automation
4.00 Evening Drive Time With Li Yi And Guo Xian
8.00 Night Time With Wei Wen

Tides

SUN RISE/SET TIME: 7.16am/7.21pm
MOON RISE/SET TIME: 9.59pm/9.31am

TIDES TODAY: Singapore: 1.11am (3m), 7.01am (1m), 12.52pm (3.4m), 7.37pm (0.3m). Desaru: 12.50am (2.9m), 6.26am (1.3m), 12.18pm (2.9m), 6.45pm (0.7m). Port Dickson: 3.29am (0m), 8.39am (2.7m), 3.41pm (0m), 9.08pm (2.9m). Mersing: 6.25am (1.4m), 11.52am (2.8m), 6.13pm (0.7m).

TIDES TOMORROW: Singapore: 1.45am (3m), 7.46am (0.9m), 1.41pm (3.3m), 8.22pm (0.5m). Desaru: 1.24am (2.8m), 7.09am (1.2m), 1.11pm (2.9m), 7.30pm (0.9m). Port Dickson: 4.08am (0.1m), 9.18am (2.6m), 4.07pm (0.1m), 9.40pm (2.9m). Mersing: 12.49am (3.2m), 7.03am (1.3m), 12.46pm (2.8m), 6.58pm (1m).

For updates and more details, call Meteorological Service Singapore, NEA, on 6542-7788 or go to www.nea.gov.sg

Brit Awards

Starry acts and support for Markle



(Clockwise from above) Dua Lipa performing at the Brit Awards, Jorja Smith with her best female solo artist award and Pink, who wins outstanding achievement award, closing the show with a medley of hits.



LONDON • Did Beyonce and Jay-Z use their video, in which they gave a Brit Award acceptance speech, to rally support for Meghan Markle?

In the video, the musical power couple are seen in front of a painting of the Duchess of Sussex – whom actor George Clooney recently said was being hounded unfairly by the press.

The significance of the video was one of the talking points on Wednesday as pop rockers The 1975 stole the show at British pop music's annual celebration, winning the coveted best album prize.

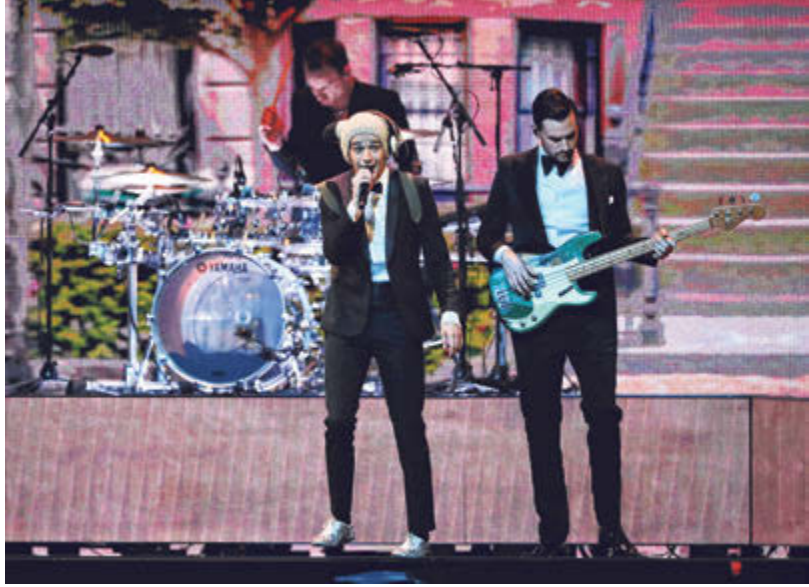
The Manchester quartet's raw No. 1 album A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships got the nod ahead of Florence + The Machine and indie singer George Ezra.

The band also claimed the best British group award – speaking out against misogyny in their acceptance speech – before performing Sincerity Is Scary for the thousands packed into London's O2 arena.

Women dominated this year's nominations, outnumbering men for only the second time in the



The Carters – Beyonce and Jay-Z (both left) – giving their international group award acceptance speech via a video with a painting of Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle in the background.



The 1975 (left) win best album, while George Ezra (above) takes best male solo artist at the awards. PHOTOS: DPA, REUTERS, INSTAGRAM/ BEYONCE

Brits' four-decade history. Dua Lipa and Anne-Marie started the night with a leading four nominations each.

Ezra was the early winner, taking best male solo artist, beating off competition from garage pioneer

Craig David, veteran avant-garde techno producer Aphex Twin and soul singer Sam Smith.

He performed upbeat summer chart-topper Shotgun, shortly before soul diva Jorja Smith was named best female solo artist.

American superstar Ariana Grande, hip-hop giants The Carters – comprising Jay-Z and Beyonce – and Canadian rapper Drake scooped the international awards.

Lipa, the big winner of last year's Brits, made a show-stopping perfor-

mance as part of a superstar collaboration with hit producer Calvin Harris and Smith. She and Harris bagged best single for One Kiss.

American singer Pink closed the show with a medley of hits after she was handed the outstanding

achievement award for a 20-year career.

"This is all too much, my dad's really excited," she said. "It's beyond anything my brain can comprehend. It's been an awesome journey." AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE

Daniel Radcliffe battled demons as boy wizard

NEW YORK • It was not a magical time for Daniel Radcliffe during the height of his Harry Potter fame.

"There is an awareness that I struggled with, particularly in my late teens, when I was going out to places for the first time where you would feel – again, it could have largely been in my head, but – you would feel watched when you went into a bar, when you went into a pub," the actor, 29, said in an Off Camera With Sam Jones interview.

"Then, in my case, the quickest way of forgetting about the fact that you were being watched was to get very drunk."

He shot to fame at age 12 after Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone cast a box-office spell in 2001.

His fame spread in seven more of the fantasy films over a decade.

But it was hard to keep a happy face all the time.

"You have a great job, you're wealthy, you don't have a right to not be excited about the thing all the time. I think that's a pressure as well.

"You suddenly start to feel, 'Man, if I am just feeling some human emotion of sadness, does that mean I'm doing this wrong?'"

"Am I not good at being famous?"

But he pulled himself together and has been sober since 2013.

"It took a few years and it took a couple of attempts. Ultimately, it was just my own decision. I woke up one morning after a night, going: 'This is probably not good.'"

While he fought his own fame demons, Radcliffe said "there was never a point where I was like, 'I wished this didn't happen to me. I wish I wasn't Harry Potter'".

On social media

KARDASHIAN SPILLS AFTER SCANDAL: Reality-show star Khloe Kardashian, 34, bared her emotions online to write: "Are you willing to give up what you love for who you love?"

Her reaction came in the wake of news that her boyfriend Tristan Thompson, 27 – with whom she has a daughter – had a tryst with model Jordyn Woods (right), whom she knows. He and Woods, 21, were spotted cozying up at a bar and a party.

Thompson, a professional basketball player, has tried to repair the damage, posting "fake news" after reports that Kardashian has decided to split up with him for good. She had reportedly forgiven him after reports of his wandering ways also surfaced last year.

While Kardashian has since kept a dignified silence over the latest incident, her pals have vented their fury, with her best friend, actress Malika Haqq, 35, calling Woods out as "unloyal".

Woods, the best friend of Kardashian's half-sister Kylie Jenner, 21, has reportedly been ordered to move out of Jenner's house, where she had been living.



Sources said Jenner is devastated by the turn of events because "Jordyn has been like Kylie's sister. They were inseparable and always together".

Kardashian, meanwhile, wants her life to be business as usual. On Wednesday, she attended the opening of fashion outlet Pretty Little Thing in Hollywood, looking sombre but not afraid to face the paparazzi's cameras. PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/JORDYN WOODS

Christie Brinkley no longer cares for beach body



NEW YORK • At age 50, Christie Brinkley (left) said it finally dawned on her that she did not have to maintain a beach-perfect body and make waves anymore.

Speaking to Us Weekly magazine, the supermodel, who just turned 65, said: "Around 50, you start letting yourself off the hook and you have a real awareness of priorities and what really matters.

"Others' opinions just don't have power over you anymore.

"The only opinions that matter to you are those of the people you love."

But she did not feel that way when she started to make a name for herself in her early years.

"When I started doing the (magazine) Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue (in 1979), I was very concerned about trying to live up to the image it projected of this hot body in a bathing suit."

Brinkley, who was married four times and is now single, added that she is no longer running a race against time to look good.

"Ageing is inevitable. If I'm lucky, I'm going to be running around as an older woman with my hard-earned wrinkles.

"It's inevitable," she noted.

In Short

Empire actor charged over false report

Empire actor Jussie Smollett has been charged by the police with filing a false report over an alleged assault by two men in Chicago last month. Media reports later emerged that he could have staged the attack.

Netflix to stream Chinese hit film

The Wandering Earth, China's second-highest grossing film, will play on Netflix, building on the sci-fi movie's success. The streaming service will translate the film into 28 languages.

Hemsworth to play Hulk Hogan in biopic

Chris Hemsworth is set to portray wrestling icon Hulk Hogan in a biopic. The face of the then World Wrestling Federation in the 1980s, he took on memorable rivals, including Andre the Giant, in the ring.

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

This special feature is also available @ www.scholarschoice.com.sg

HEALTHCARE
SCHOLARSHIPS





CARE

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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ADVERTORIAL



People developer

Lieutenant Colonel Mikail Kalimuddin has found his calling as a leader who helps people develop personally and professionally

By Esther Teo

To Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Mikail Kalimuddin, Commanding Officer of 23rd Battalion Singapore Artillery, the most fulfilling part of the military profession is helping people develop personally and professionally. His unit comprises a few hundred full-time National Servicemen (NSFs) who operate the Singapore Lightweight Howitzer and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System. LTC Mikail takes pride in guiding the

NSFs as they transform from trainees into effective tactical leaders in a matter of months. "As they go through the training, they develop into individuals who are confident, calm under pressure, and able to command and control a team even in challenging situations," he says. "The skills and abilities

they gained are for life. People development does not happen by chance — it takes energy and patience to motivate and train a conscripted group of individuals with different commitment levels."

Continuous learning

LTC Mikail, a recipient of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Scholarship, as well as the President's Scholarship, holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science and a master's degree in Economics from Brown University in the United States.

Since he joined the Singapore Army nine years ago, LTC Mikail's leadership experiences have seen him taking on appointments such as a commander leading artillery fire missions, an instructor grooming new generations of leaders in Officer Cadet School, as well as a strategic planner involved in the future planning for the Army. He also makes sure he walks the talk of professional and personal development by taking on additional roles beyond his job scope. For example, he supported the National Day Parade in the area of branding and publicity in 2018. He was also provided numerous developmental opportunities through involvement in SAF projects, inter-ministry studies, and military and civil service courses.

"Being in the military demands an incredibly broad swathe of leadership skills — critical and creative thinking, role modelling, coaching, offering direction, managing people and systems, communicating effectively, and so on. This encourages the development of a holistic and wide range of leadership skills and styles."

Psyched about tech

Techie Major Sim Bao Chen is right where he needs to be, as Battery Commander in the 3rd Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion

Major (MAJ) Sim Bao Chen has always been a techie at heart. In junior college, he was the club president of the Robotics Society, and led the school team to win various competitions.

So it seems fitting that the 29-year-old Battery Commander in the 3rd Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion is now responsible for the Battery that operates the RBS 70, a portable short-range air defence missile system that helps to safeguard Singapore's skies.

MAJ Sim is also in charge of the operational deployment, training, welfare and logistics of more than 50 personnel, including full-time National Servicemen (NSFs) and regulars.

"I ensure that we develop each individual, not only professionally but also holistically as a person, so that they emerge from National Service (NS) as confident and capable men."

As part of the larger Air Defence eco-

system, he has been involved in various security operations during high-key events such as the National Day Parade, Asean Summit, and the historic summit between United States President Donald Trump and North Korea leader Kim Jong-un in June last year.

Learning to lead

As a recipient of the Singapore Armed Forces Merit Scholarship in 2009, MAJ Sim pursued a master's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Imperial College London, and was attached to different SAF units and departments during summer breaks.

"By observing the various Commanding Officers whom I was attached to, I was able to conceptualise my leadership philosophy, and hit the ground running when I came back in 2014," he says.

Leadership development in the SAF is an ongoing process which cultivates both horizontal and vertical leadership skills through professional courses, experience gained from working with and leading diverse and professional teams, as well as exposure to a range of leadership styles in the organisation.

Ever the technology enthusiast, he is excited about inducting new Ground Based Air Defence capabilities and systems to enhance the Republic of Singapore Air Force's capability to deal with aerial threats.

"I hope to contribute further in transforming the Air Force to fight leaner, smarter and more effectively."

ESTHER TEO

In service to Singapore

Captain Aaron Koh sees his job serving in the Republic of Singapore Navy as a service to others and the nation

Growing up with a younger brother with special needs has made Captain (CPT) Aaron Koh more sensitive towards the needs of the disadvantaged and imbued in him the importance of service and sacrifice. As the social and relations committee chairperson in his junior college student council, he embarked on several service-learning projects involving the intellectually disabled and lower-income segments of society.

"These experiences made me realise that I want to dedicate my life's purpose to serving those around me," says the 26-year-old Naval Officer.

Leap of faith

After his A levels, CPT Koh decided to continue serving the community by joining SAF as he "saw no higher calling than committing to the defence of our country."

Within the SAF, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) stood out for him. The tight-knitted family spirit he experienced

during his visit to the RSN as a student, and the RSN's role in expanding Singapore's diplomatic and policy space inspired him to take the leap of faith. "I knew that the Navy plays a strategically critical role in ensuring the continued prosperity of our maritime nation and I wanted to be at the forefront in safeguarding this," he shares.

He was awarded the President's Scholarship as well as the SAF Scholarship, and went on to pursue a double degree in Economics and Political Science at Wharton School and College of Arts and Sciences at University of Pennsylvania in the United States.

Myriad of opportunities

Since his return from studies, CPT Koh has been involved in several memorable deployments and operations. However, the one that left the deepest impression on him was taking part in Singapore's first International Maritime Review (IMR) in 2017, where he was the lead planner for three group sails involving 24 ships from 18 countries.

"I felt proud that a small navy like ours could organise such a large-scale exercise. It reaffirms the strategic role the Navy plays — forging friendships with countries all over the world as the diplomatic arm of the nation," he says.

Last year, CPT Koh was also selected for the International Principal Warfare Course conducted by the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom, and graduated with Distinction as the top student.

During the course, he had the opportunity to interact and learn from officers from diverse backgrounds, such as Chile, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Malaysia and Pakistan.

Paying it forward

As the Operations Officer of RSS Supreme, one of six Formidable-class frigates, CPT Koh endeavours to command a warship in the service of Singapore one day.

"Command is a huge privilege but also a big responsibility. I hope to build on the good work of our predecessors, and continue to be a steward of our Navy's future," he says.

"Keeping the sea lines of communication free and open is key to Singapore's continued prosperity. To be part of the maritime force fulfilling this critical mission gives me an immense sense of satisfaction."

Photos: MINDEF

ESTHER TEO

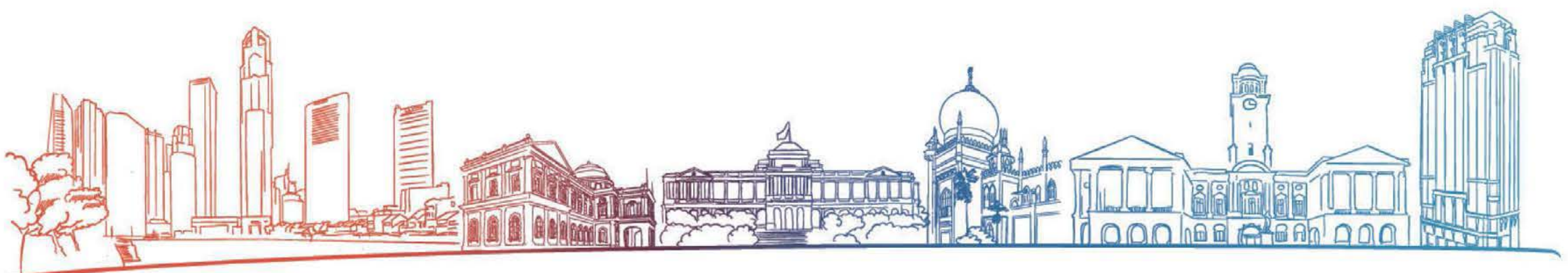
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Working behind the scenes

Superintendent of Police Xie Xingmao and his team upkeep the safety and security on the streets

BY ESTHER TEO

Safety and public order are sometimes taken for granted in Singapore. But we have the Singapore Police Force (SPF) Central Police Division Head of Operations Xie Xingmao and his team to thank for working tirelessly behind the scenes as they continue to keep our streets safe and secure. "The Central Police Division has a diverse terrain presenting both public order and public security challenges," says Superintendent of Police (SUPT) Xie, who also handles the Emergency Response Team and Warrant Enforcement Unit, in addition to the Compliance Management Unit, the Crime Control Unit and the Operations Planning team. The Central Police Division is responsible for the security at various locations of interest — important government buildings such as Parliament House, State and Supreme Courts; and popular meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions venues such as Suntec City Convention Centre and Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre. The division also manages public entertainment belts, works with other agencies to maintain order at foreign worker congregation nodes such as Little India and Little Thailand, and oversees events held other locations such as the Speakers' Corner, the F1 Pit Building and The Promontory at Marina Bay. Given the unique terrain, the division has planned and provided security coverage for a number of major deployments during events such as Thai Pusam, Chinese New Year Eve Countdown, Chingay, National Day Parade



rehearsals, Asean Summit and the Marina Bay Singapore Countdown. SUPT Xie, 32, received the Singapore Police Force Scholarship in 2005 and obtained a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering with first class honours from Imperial College London in the United Kingdom. During his summer breaks, he did internships and attachments arranged by the SPF to expose himself to the workings of the vari-

ous units and to keep himself current with the developments within the Force. Since he returned to active duty in 2009, SPF has provided him with professional, leadership and personal development opportunities in various roles. This included his stints as Investigation Officer, Neighbourhood Police Centre Team Leader, Commanding Officer, as well as his involvement in intelligence work and peacekeeping missions in Timor-Leste.

He was also posted to the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with immigration related policies such as the amendments to the National Registration Act for the collection of iris images as well as the NRIC re-registration at age 55. Says the father of two boys: "Homeland security plays a vital role in the overall attractiveness of a country. Being able to contribute to the safety and security of Singapore keeps me going."

Since SUPT Xie returned to active duty, SPF has provided him with professional, leadership and personal development opportunities in various roles. PHOTOS: SPF

Operationally secure

Deputy Superintendent of Police Ong Ruo Cheng helped to pull off one of 2018's major world events — the Trump-Kim Summit

The world had its eyes glued on Singapore during the historic summit between United States President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in last June. The major world event went without a hitch — owing to the watertight security planning and execution by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ong Ruo Cheng and her team from the Major Security Events Division (MSED) of the Singapore Police Force's Operations Department. DSP Ong remembers the many sleepless nights and constant adrenaline rush the team experienced in the run-up to the summit. "There was an extremely short runway to formulate the security

plans for the historic meeting, and we had to adjust the plans according to constant changes," she recalls. "It is heartening to know that my team's efforts contributed directly to the successful and safe conclusion of the summit." MSED implements security and contingency plans for major local and iconic international events in Singapore, such as National Day Parade, Formula One Grand Prix and Asean Summit. DSP Ong was the first female recipient of the mid-term Local Merit Scholarship (Home Uniformed Services) from Ministry of Home Affairs in 2010 when she was reading Political Science at National Univer-

sity of Singapore. The 29-year-old Operations Officer now works with other government agencies and external stakeholders, such as event organisers and venue owners, to provide policy guidance in the formulation of security plans. While events security planning is complex, DSP Ong credits her aptitude for it to her training of over six years with the Force. Prior to her current role, she was an Investigation Officer and then a Team Leader in a Neighbourhood Police Centre. These roles developed her resilience and trained her to look at things from different perspectives. DSP Ong is excited to take on the new challenges facing policing, such as the proliferation of crime in the digital world. "I look forward to continuing to work with my brothers and sisters in blue, to think up creative ways to tackle crime and stay ahead in the evolving landscape."

BY ESTHER TEO



DSP Wong's work is making a difference in the lives of the residents, community and his fellow officers.

Making things better

Gamer Wong Rong Kai puts his strategic thinking to good use as a Commanding Officer.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Wong Rong Kai, Commanding Officer (CO) of Bukit Timah Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC), is a geek and proud of it. When he is not carrying out his policing duties, the 31-year-old enjoys playing strategy and role-playing games online. DSP Wong also reads widely — he cannot resist a good book on governance or history, Chinese wuxia novels, and the Black Library — Warhammer 40K graphic novel series. He also makes it a point to read feature articles online. "I am always curious about what is out there, how the universe works and how to improve things," he says. The son of a bus captain and housewife received the Singapore Government Scholarship (SGS) in 2005. His aptitude for strategic thinking and hunger for knowledge put him in good stead as the CO of about 100 officers at Bukit Timah NPC. DSP Wong is responsible for overseeing

the operations within the NPC's precincts to ensure the safety and security of the community. His work is making a difference in the lives of the residents, community and his fellow officers. One notable initiative is Bukit Timah NPC's annual Safety and Security Awareness Workshop which teaches foreign domestic workers in the precinct about local laws and how to avoid becoming victims of crime. DSP Wong's scholarship experience taught him how to work well with people from different cultures and organisational practices. On the SGS, DSP Wong pursued a Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London in the United Kingdom from 2008 to 2012. "Half of the students there were foreigners, and I worked with project mates from countries such as Nigeria, India and Denmark. They introduced me to new ideas and ways of thinking," he recalls. People were happy to speak up

and share their thoughts. The confluence of ideas encouraged us to 'agree to disagree', and to look at issues from different viewpoints before coming to a decision." On his return to active duty in 2012, the SPF has provided him with leadership and professional development opportunities through foundational postings in investigation and operations, including stints as Investigation Officer and Neighbourhood Police Centre Team Leader. He also did intelligence work before assuming the role of Commanding Officer. DSP Wong says: "The SPF is at an exciting stage in its evolution as it works to stay on top of emerging strategic trends. I hope to contribute significantly to the next model of frontline policing."

BY ESTHER TEO



DSP Ong works with other government agencies and external stakeholders to provide policy guidance in the formulation of security plans.

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

AVA Undergraduate Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Applications open in February and close two weeks after the release of A-level results
- Singapore citizens and permanent residents are eligible. PRs need to apply for citizenship for their award to be confirmed

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition fees and other compulsory fees
- Monthly maintenance allowance
- Pre-studies allowance (one-time)
- Return economy class airfare (for overseas award)

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years (local study)
- Six years (overseas study)

Terms and conditions apply.



Mr Lim is passionate about the environment and sustainability, and loves food. PHOTO: TED CHEN

Safe to eat

Mr Lim Wei Jing's work at AVA quells Singaporeans' concern about food security

BY CHEN JINYAO

Singaporeans do not have to worry about a shortage of food thanks to people like Mr Lim Wei Jing, 26.

The manager of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority's (AVA) Research Planning and Systems Integration Group helps to improve Singapore's food security by developing research and development programmes for the agri-tech and food sector.

On an AVA Undergraduate Scholarship, he did a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Food Science (2013 to 2016) at University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom, followed by a master's degree in Food Security (2016 to 2017) at University of Edinburgh, UK, also supported by AVA.

Why did you sign up for AVA's scholarship?

I am passionate about the environment and sustainability, and I love food. I saw myself applying the knowledge from university to AVA's work — to ensure a resilient supply of safe food for Singapore.

What was your most memorable experience in university?

During the summer holidays of 2017, I took part in a programme organised by Challenges Worldwide, a Scottish international development charity, and spent six weeks in Kampala, Uganda. The agricultural nation is dominated by smallholder farmers, many of whom saw organic agriculture as a way to increase the value of their produce.

I was there gathering data for my dissertation on food loss and waste in Uganda's organic fruit supply chain. I saw how the farmers organised many initiatives to tackle a system that's unable to provide adequate infrastructure and financial support to them.

It was a meaningful experience.

How did your scholarship enhance your experience at university?

Knowing that I was returning to Singapore to serve my bond helped to clarify my goals. I focused on modules that would help me better understand AVA's work, for example.

What are some of your recent work projects?

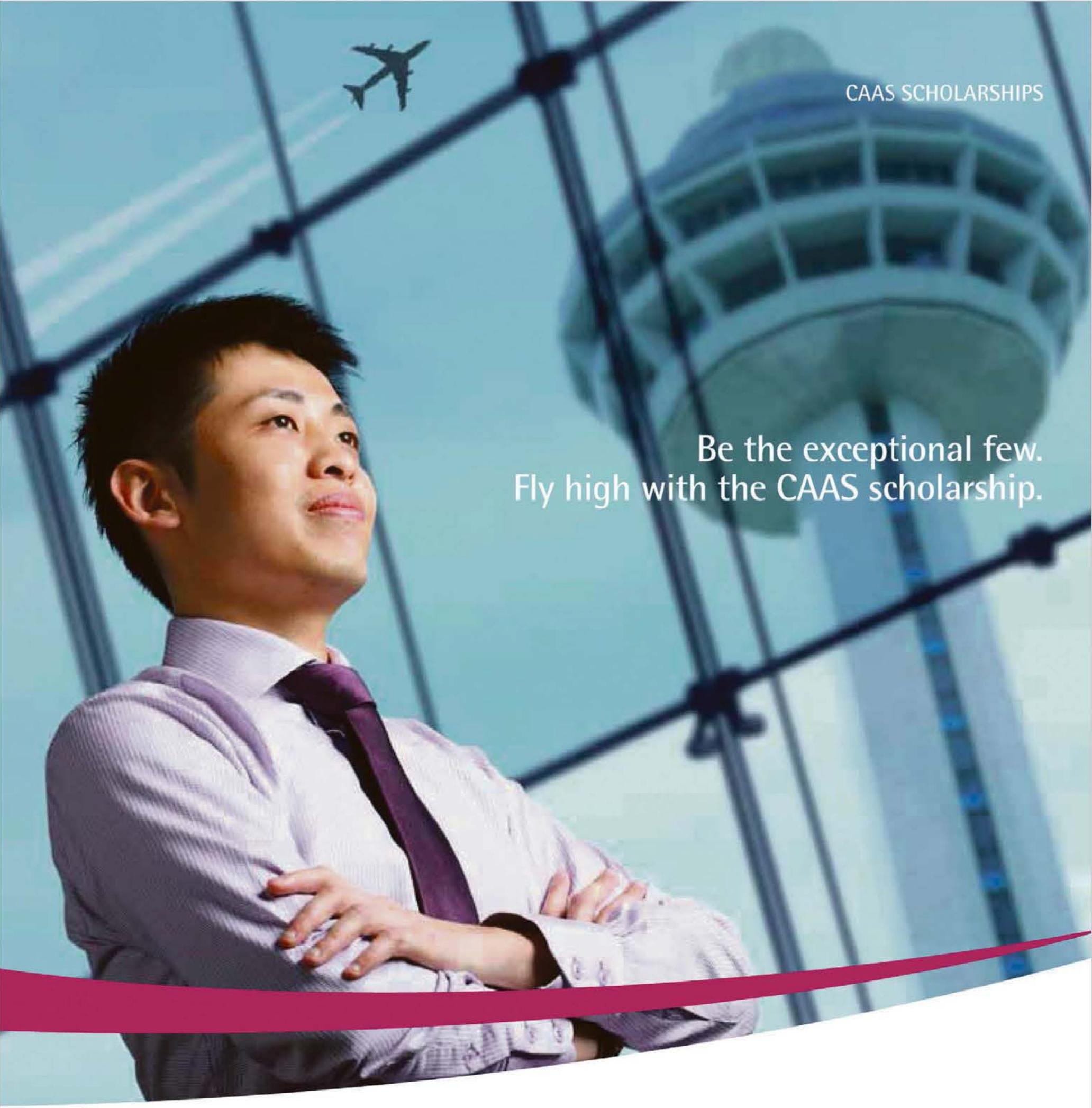
A project last year was to develop a research and development programme for the agri-tech and food sector. It is a key factor that will enable our farms to increase food production significantly.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

Climate change is likely to have a significant impact on agriculture. We can do a lot more to ensure that our food supply becomes climate-resilient and that our local food producers develop in a sustainable manner.

Note: On April 1, the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) will be formed under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources to oversee food safety and security. The SFA will bring together all food-related functions currently carried out by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), the National Environment Agency and the Health Sciences Authority.

Applicants interested in scholarships in food-related disciplines offered by AVA may submit applications to AVA during the application cycle. Successful applicants will be awarded the SFA Undergraduate Scholarship, but the scholarship process will be administered under the AVA Undergraduate Scholarship at their point of application.



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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



See the world and learn

Scholar Catrina Lim gains overseas exposure with NTU's Renaissance Engineering Programme

The Renaissance Engineering Programme Scholarship

- CRITERIA:
- Open to Singapore citizens and permanent residents
 - Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate Renaissance Engineering Programme in Nanyang Technological University
 - Possess outstanding A-level results, diploma awarded by a polytechnic in Singapore, National University of Singapore High School Diploma or International Baccalaureate Diploma qualifications
 - Excellent co-curricular records
 - Strong leadership qualities and potential

BOND PERIOD:

- No bond

Terms and conditions apply.

PHOTO: TED CHEN



Ms Lim during her time at Berkeley. PHOTO: CATRINA LIM

BY MEREDITH WOO

Last year was a busy one for Ms Catrina Lim, and it was also memorable for its many highlights.

On an exchange programme at the University of California, Berkeley from August 2017 to May 2018, she did a vehicle dynamics course in which she had to build a 1/10-scale race car and programme it to perform tasks such as cruise control and lane keeping.

She also enjoyed a full social life, as her hostel organised many weekend events, a weekly coffee hour and themed dinners where she met people from all over the world.

And in her spare time, she took many road trips and went on hikes with her new friends.

From May to August last year, the 23-year-old — a Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP) Scholarship holder

— also did an internship at multinational biopharmaceutical company Amgen, in California.

She was assigned to projects that involved pumps and heat exchangers in the molecule production process — a challenging yet rewarding project for her as she had to apply familiar concepts to an unfamiliar field.

The NTU-REP has been a good fit for her passions, says Ms Lim, who loves to travel and try new things.

Room for discovery

Ms Lim says: "The scholarship covers my expenses for the programme while leaving me to explore many potential career options. What's more, there is no bond period."

Additionally, the REP offers a one-year overseas exchange programme in Year 3 and an overseas internship.

REP scholars also enjoy living, book, computer and accommodation allow-

ances, as well as overseas benefits such as accommodation and meals allowance during Year 3.

"I love how the REP combines both engineering and business," adds Ms Lim, who sees the value of understanding both the technical and business aspects within the work environment, which she finds prevents tunnel vision when making decisions.

Exposure to various branches of engineering (including aerospace, computer science and biomolecular) in her foundation years gave her a holistic understanding of the field and helped her make a wiser choice for her specialisation.

Her focus? Mechanical engineering for its breadth and flexibility of career options. "It has many different aspects and some overlap with other branches of engineering, while many are drastically different from one another. This keeps studying and applying mechanical engineering concepts interesting."

Pursuing interests

Not limited to just learning engineering, Ms Lim was free to explore her interest in the arts. She attended a 10-week summer school programme under GEM Discoverer at the University of Stuttgart from May to June 2016 where she studied the German language and art history.

She was also the RE Club vice-president in her second year, and worked with the various committee heads on fostering lasting inter-batch connections and supporting fellow undergraduates in their career development.

When she graduates in December 2019, Ms Lim hopes to get a job in a tech-based company.

This interest is evident in her final-year project on enabling detection and avoidance in unmanned aerial vehicles using Robot Operating System, and her upcoming internship at DSO National Laboratories' Guided Systems, where she will work on drones.



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- PSC Scholarship (Legal Service)
- PSC Scholarship (Medicine/Dentistry)
- PSC Scholarship (Public Finance)
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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

A clear runway for career take-off

The CAAS Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship paved the way for Mr Benjamin Chin's entry into the aviation industry

BY MICHELLE CHIN

When he was sitting for his A-level examinations years ago, Mr Benjamin Chin enjoyed studying at Changi Airport.

With its wide spaces, free Wi-Fi, good lighting, ample F&B choices and round-the-clock air-conditioning, the airport offered a great environment for students like him. Watching planes land and take off from the runway also helped him relieve stress.

It seems fitting, given the amount of time that Mr Chin spent at the airport as a student, that he ended up taking up the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship in 2012.

"I applied for the scholarship as I wanted to be a part of the aviation industry, and CAAS is where I could be exposed to different aspects of the industry while being empowered to make contributions," he says.

Last year, he completed a four-year direct master's programme in Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London. Upon graduation, he joined the CAAS and is now a deputy manager (Airport Development & Planning).

From young, Mr Chin has been interested by the nuts and bolts of the aviation industry. The 25-year-old is happy to be part of a team involved in the planning and design of Changi Airport's new mega passenger terminal, Terminal 5 (T5).



From young, Mr Chin has been interested by the nuts and bolts of the aviation industry. PHOTO: TED CHEN

"Much of my work involves analysing and evaluating plan drawings of the latest T5 designs, discussing the implications of certain key design decisions on capacity, costs, operations and security as well as developing CAAS' feedback and assessment of the designs.

"I find my work interesting as I am privy to one of the first looks at the designs for T5, and get to think deeply about how airport design affects the passenger experience and airport operations," he says.

Having spent long periods of time in the existing terminals, Mr Chin has come up with his own wishlist for T5: a large viewing mall for the public to watch planes, more open spaces for art and culture, a wide variety of food options as well as sports and entertainment facilities.

Education journey

While an overseas education con-

tinues to be a big draw for scholarship applicants, Mr Chin believes it is more important to have interest in the work of the organisation or agency offering the scholarship.

Mr Chin says: "Although being able to study overseas was a large draw, I believed that it was more important to have interest in the work as a scholarship would entail a long commitment to a career in the organisation."

Scholarship perks

With the CAAS scholarship, Mr Chin immersed himself in his university experience without worrying about finances. He stretched himself academically, developed new interests and skills, as well as forged deep friendships.

While he was enrolled in Imperial College London, Mr Chin did a "year abroad" in an entirely different education system, culture and environment at the Carnegie

Mellon University in the United States.

In 2015, as an undergraduate, Mr Chin underwent a compulsory 10-week internship with CAAS at the same division he is now at. As an intern, he engaged stakeholders to obtain their requirements and concerns about T5, as well as studied the potential for the usage of autonomous vehicles in T5.

Back then, his division was "trying to figure out what the future might look like, and how T5 should be planned to be ready for that".

Now, Mr Chin's division oversees the design process to ensure that T5 will be functional, resilient, cost-effective and future-ready.

Mr Chin says: "I appreciate the continuity between the work I was doing during my internship and my current work, as I get to see how T5 is really developing over time."

CAAS Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Applicants must be a Singapore citizen or Singapore permanent resident who is willing to take up Singapore citizenship
- Excellent A-level results or equivalent, including International Baccalaureate, NUS High diploma and polytechnic (diploma with merit); university results
- Outstanding CCA records and proven leadership and high achiever qualities
- Current undergraduates with excellent track records will also be considered

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition and compulsory fees
- Allowance (covering pre-studies, computer and maintenance)
- Additional sponsorships will be given for student exchange and summer studies programme
- Full postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management
- Compulsory internships are provided to allow scholars to gain insights into the civil aviation industry
- Return airfares for Overseas Scholars returning for internships with CAAS

BOND PERIOD:

- Six years

Terms and conditions apply.

GIC Scholarship Programme

CRITERIA:

- Pre-tertiary students about to embark on their undergraduate studies
- All nationalities – conversion to a Singapore citizenship is not required
- We look for candidates with strong critical thinking, creativity and leadership qualities, and who are passionate and excited about a career at GIC

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition and other related fees and allowances
- Sponsorship of a range of learning opportunities including, but not limited to exchange programme / study abroad programme / summer school / finance-related seminars / third language study (subject to approval)
- Sponsorship of a master's degree (subject to approval)
- Return airfare (for overseas studies)

BOND PERIOD:

- Singapore – three years
- Non-English speaking countries (e.g. Japan, Germany, China) – four years
- United States / United Kingdom – five years

Applications are open on Brightsparks till March 24.

Terms and conditions apply.



Mr Poh uses the experiences gained from studying and living in London and New York to fast-track his career. PHOTO: TED CHEN

Social Sciences from Columbia University in New York, the United States.

What do you do now at work?

I am an associate with GIC's real estate team, covering the Australia and New Zealand markets. I engage in investment management and asset management functions. The real estate business requires you to be on the ground, so I travel quite frequently to both countries. It's one of the things I like about my job.

What did you enjoy most about your university education?

The ability to study what I like from leading professors in the field. In my master's programme, I wrote a thesis on using Bayesian analysis to predict winners of The Amazing Race, which enabled me to apply the skills I learnt in school to one of my passions.

Living overseas also taught me a lot about life outside the classroom. I've benefited tremendously from the diversity of opinions I was surrounded with.

How did your scholarship experience prepare you for your current job role?

It equipped me with the skills to think about issues (e.g. critical thinking, quantitative and statistical methods). Politics and economics are key components of an investment decision, so being aware of and understanding fundamental theoretical concepts have been very useful.

My internship experience, and subsequently the three rotations I did as part of the GIC Professionals Programme upon starting my career at GIC, allowed me to explore various facets of the company. This provided greater exposure to the business, enabled me to build connections, and grasp concepts that I can apply to my current role.

You have visited over 60 countries, which equates to almost a third of the world's countries. How has travelling shaped your worldview?

Time and again, I am reminded of the goodness of humanity. I managed to hitchhike from London to Zagreb, Croatia – all via the kindness of strangers. I climbed a mountain in Morocco with the help of a group of hikers who took me in (I was alone and underprepared for the hike). More importantly, it is the diversity of opinions I was presented with – reminding me to never pass value judgments on others that easily.

Amazing race of life

Roadblocks, detours, hard sacrifices. GIC scholar Nigel Poh has seen it all – on TV. Chan Siew Lian unearths how Nigel went on to produce his own reality show while studying abroad

When faced with a roadblock, some people try to wing it, too many whine, while others — like Mr Nigel Poh, 26 — choose to learn how to win in life.

Blame television. An ardent fan of The Amazing Race, Mr Poh has seen how ambitions have crumbled under the weight of human conflict, poor choices, and life's curveballs.

The winners are those who think ahead, play hard, and keep moving.

So inspired was he that he filmed and produced his own adventure reality show On the Road, that took place across seven European countries in 10 days.

Now an associate with GIC, Mr Poh uses the experiences gained from studying and living in two of the world's most global cities — London and New York — to fast-track his career.

What did you study?

I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Government and Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE) in London, UK, and a Master of Arts in Quantitative Methods in the

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Keeping everything in check

Undergraduate Georgiana Ang gets a boost from the Auditor-General's Office Auditing Service Scholarship in carving out a future career in public sector auditing

BY MICHELLE CHIN

Miss Georgiana Ang (right), in her 20s, an undergraduate pursuing Nanyang Technological University's Double Degree in Accountancy and Business, shares how the Auditor-General's Office (AGO) Auditing Service Scholarship complements her interests and career plans:

Q: Tell us more about your choice of degree programme.

My interest in finance started from young. For example, I found it interesting to manage the class funds when I was the class treasurer in secondary school — even though that was only an amateur form of accounting.

As I grew older, I became interested in investing, so my parents would teach me how to make some sense of companies' financial statements when they received them in the mail.

While exploring the list of business degree specialisations, I was drawn to business analytics for data exploration and visualisation. With my skills in programming and computers, I enjoy creating a Web app almost from scratch, or coding something useful to automate or simplify tasks. In today's era, knowledge in data analytics is useful.

Q: Why did the AGO Auditing Service Scholarship appeal to you?

When I was 19 years old, I chanced upon the scholarship while browsing a scholarship booklet distributed in school the day the A-level results were released.

The AGO Auditing Service Scholarship leads to a job in public sector auditing that involves checking on the proper accounting and use of public resources and monies. Such audits, carried out by the independent AGO, enhance public accountability and help strengthen the financial governance of the public sector.

I like the idea that the findings of public sector auditing help not just stakeholders of a company, but also the nation. It affects people residing in Singapore, Singaporeans living abroad, companies looking to invest in Singapore and also the countries we have ties with.

Q: What does the scholarship offer?

It provides full coverage of university tuition fees, hostel fees, living allowance as well as full sponsorship for an overseas exchange programme.

An internship with AGO is compulsory for all AGO Auditing Service Scholarship holders, and I am able to tap this internship to simultaneously meet Nanyang Business School's internship requirement.

During my 10-week internship at AGO, I experienced audit work and tried out data analysis — putting my knowledge gleaned from school into practice. This work experience helped make my undergraduate journey more fulfilling.

Upon graduation, I will serve a four-year bond at AGO.



PHOTO: TED CHEN

AGO Auditing Service Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Good A-level results (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition and other compulsory fees, maintenance allowance, hostel allowance and pre-studies allowance

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Building on success

Ms Koh Zhi Xin looks forward to doing hands-on engineering work under the Singapore-Industry Scholarship

full tuition fees, living expenses, a hostel allowance, and other allowances, including an overseas exchange allowance, if requirements are met.

But what really drew Ms Koh to the scholarship, despite the many other scholarships available to engineering students, was the opportunity it provides its scholars to work with leading organisations in several of Singapore's strategic sectors.

"SgIS' diverse connections would enable me to be bonded to a company whose work I am genuinely interested in. That's why I chose it," she explains.

Making things better

Even with the wealth of choices made available to her through the scholarship, Ms Koh immediately zeroed in on one organisation: Xilinx Asia Pacific.

The company develops and sells a large spectrum of products ranging from low-level electrical components to entire platforms and solutions.

"I chose Xilinx because I find working with a breadth of technologies really interesting," she says. "It's amazing how the most basic electrical parts can be put together to create complex and powerful solutions."

Low-level electronics may not be particularly inspiring to the average person, but Ms Koh begs to differ.

"Without the improvements made in this sector such as the ever-decreasing sizes and ever-increasing power of processors, it wouldn't have been possible to create technological marvels such as our smartphones, wearable tech devices, microchip implants, and so on."

Needless to say, she is looking forward to starting her career at Xilinx when she graduates from SUTD in 2020. Her role involves performing analyses on the company's component and system failures to improve the quality checks on its products.

She says: "I hope that working in Xilinx will allow me to continuously nurture my skills in engineering. This is a field that I would love to stay in for the foreseeable future."

I chose Xilinx because I find working with a breadth of technologies really interesting. It's amazing how the most basic electrical parts can be put together to create complex and powerful solutions.

MS KOH ZHI XIN
Singapore-Industry
Scholarship recipient



BY BRYANT CHAN

Ms Koh Zhi Xin, 20, wants to become an engineer for one reason: she likes solving problems.

For instance, noticing the difficulties that drone enthusiasts faced flying indoors, she worked on a collision-avoidance drone for her final research project at NUS High School — one that could autonomously detect and avoid obstacles such as walls, doors and other objects.

This experience, combined with the guidance she received from her project mentor, made the then 18-year-old realise that engineering was the career for her.

Prior to that, Ms Koh had not realised until then how much she liked

building and designing things.

"It wasn't so much my aptitude for engineering that impacted my decision to go into the field, as much as how much I enjoyed it," she says.

Chasing her dream

In 2016, when Ms Koh applied for the engineering and product development course at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), she was looking to apply for a scholarship, but none of the sponsoring organisations particularly jumped out at her.

It was only when she stumbled across the Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS) on BrightSparks that she was sold.

The SgIS is up there with the most prestigious scholarships. It covers

SgIS Full-Term

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizens who are about to embark on their full-time local undergraduate studies
- Good A-level results, International Baccalaureate, NUS High School Diploma or Polytechnic Diploma
- Seeking admission or have been accepted for admission to the following institutions across all disciplines (excluding healthcare-related disciplines):
 - Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
 - National University of Singapore (NUS)
 - Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
 - Singapore Management University (SMU)
 - Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
 - Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
 - Good co-curricular activities record and leadership achievements

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Full tuition fees and approved academic charges
- Living and other allowances
- Hostel allowance
- Overseas exchange allowance

BOND PERIOD:

- Three years (for SIT graduates)
- Four years (for NTU / NUS / SMU / SUSS / SUTD graduates)

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Planning for the retention of our built heritage helps to ensure that Singapore can grow in a sustainable manner and strengthens the 'heartware' of our citizens as a foundation for the future.

MR KELVIN ANG
director
(Conservation Management)
Urban Redevelopment
Authority



Mr Ang's work includes the restoration of buildings such as NUS Baba House at 157 Neil Road.
PHOTO: TED CHEN

A passion for preservation

Studying abroad sparked an enduring love for historic buildings in URA scholar Kelvin Ang

BY CHARMAINE CHAN

Many people talk about their university days as a seminal time in their lives, when they gained clarity on their future careers.

This was certainly the case for Mr Kelvin Ang, 46, the director (Conservation Management) of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). Awarded a URA overseas scholarship in 1993, he opted to study architecture at University College London.

Spending six years living in the British capital, as well as travelling around European cities soaking up the culture and history, he developed an appreciation for the way old cities there had managed to not just survive but thrive by leveraging their unique physical and social environments.

"Beautiful historical buildings are woven into the tapestry of people's lives by serving the wider community as venues for both everyday and special events," he elaborates.

"It became clear to me that one of the keys to successful urban regeneration includes the careful protection and considered reuse of old buildings. But this presents architects and planners with unique challenges."

Mr Ang continued to be intrigued by such city planning challenges even after he returned to Singapore in 1999 to work as a URA architect.

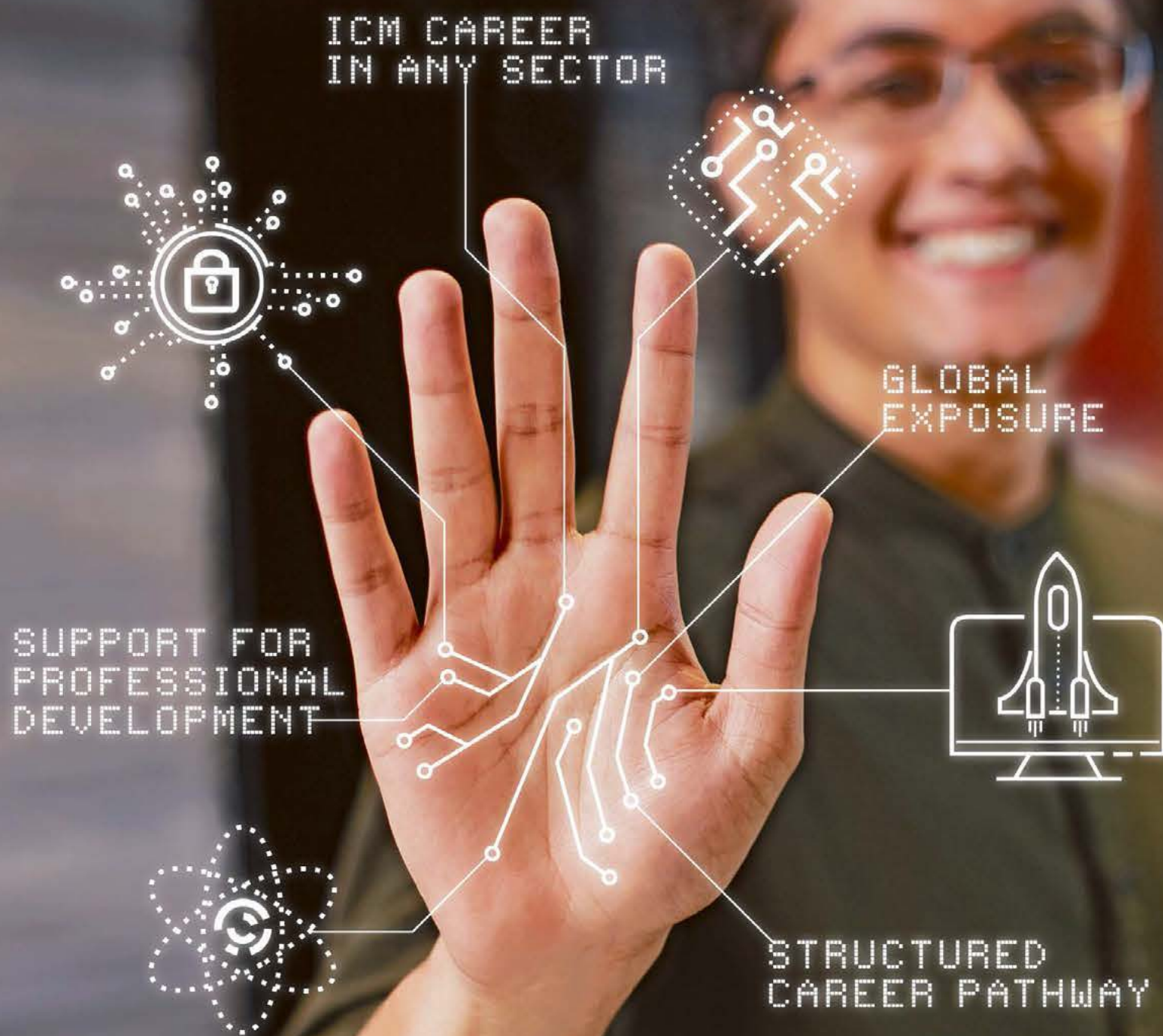
In 2001, he was deployed to the Conservation Department, and by 2007 he was appointed head (Heritage Studies). In this role, he was in charge of researching buildings with potential heritage value and making recommendations as to whether they should be conserved.

In his quest to deepen his knowledge in his passion topic, he applied for a post-graduate scholarship, which he was awarded in 2010, and returned to University College London to pursue a Master in Sustainable Heritage. He followed that with a two-month work attachment at English Heritage, the agency in charge of heritage sites in Britain.

By 2013, Mr Ang was back at URA to take up his current role. His work includes the restoration of buildings such as NUS Baba House, as well as conservation projects involving Balestier Road and the former Beach Road camp.

"My role is an amazing opportunity to help shape the city that I live in," he says. "Planning for the retention of our built heritage helps to ensure that Singapore can grow in a sustainable manner and strengthens the 'heartware' of our citizens as a foundation for the future."

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VALUE OF AWARD:

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BOND PERIOD:

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



PHOTO: TED CHEN

Making his mark

NUS Global Merit Scholarship recipient Oliver Cheok puts his energy and leadership skills to good use by participating in wide-ranging activities both at university and beyond it

BY NIVANI ELANGO VAN

Mr Oliver Cheok may be only 21 years old, but he can proudly say he is the creator of several highly rated mobile applications, the co-founder of a calisthenics club in his school, and the founder of a peer-tutoring initiative. The NUS Global Merit Scholarship recipient has a slew of achievements under his belt and is already aiming for more.

Says Mr Cheok: "In the University Scholars Programme, I am involved in a number of co-curricular activities (CCAs), including calisthenics, track and field, swimming, chess, and the Princeton Diplomatic Invitational team, among others. I am also planning to join a dance-related CCA in order to try something new and expand my horizons."

Ambitious all-rounder

It is evident that Mr Cheok is ambitious and thrives on challenges. He already had the right qualities — strong leadership skills and a good CCA record — to snag an NUS Global Merit Scholarship.

On top of the achievements listed above, he was also the captain of the rock-climbing team at his alma mater, Temasek Junior College. Under the Defence Science and Technology Agency, he conducted research at the Singapore National Wind Tunnel, and also had an internship stint at the Institute on Asian Consumer Insight, where he assisted with research and copywriting.

He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Computing degree in computer science at NUS, and has plans to become a software engineer upon graduation. He wants to create software and products that impact millions of people around the world.

"I chose to pursue computer science at NUS because I felt that its scholarship and academic programme would best equip me for a career in software and to attain my goals in life," Mr Cheok says. "I was thoroughly attracted by not only the world-class computer science department but also the various programmes with the industry that would allow me to kickstart my career even before graduating."

Mr Cheok explains that the NUS Global Merit Scholarship is the highest-tiered scholarship offered by NUS, given to only a handful of students. Recipients receive benefits like fully-sponsored tuition fees, living, computer and accommodation allowances, as well as a stipend for overseas programmes. The scholarship, like all others offered by NUS, is bond-free.

Wind beneath his wings

But how does the scholarship help Mr Cheok in his pursuits?

He explains: "Several of my fellow scholars and I are currently involved in spearheading a volunteer initiative with an external organisation. While I cannot divulge much at this time, I can say that we are very excited for our project to reach fruition."

"Apart from that, I am also occasionally involved with NUS promotional efforts in different capacities. My contribution to the school also involves co-founding a calisthenics club in my residential college, Cinnamon College, with a good friend."

As he progresses in school, Mr Cheok will learn how to develop real products for the public. One particular module that he will be taking involves improving and developing a digital platform for use in the freshman introductory course.

"The curriculum at NUS is the perfect blend of theory and application, allowing me to understand not only the nitty gritty of academia but also how those algorithms can be used to solve problems in the real world," he says.

NUS Global Merit Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Strong leadership qualities and potential
- Possess good co-curricular activities record

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Covers tuition fees and provides allowances (computer, living, accommodation, overseas programme)

BOND PERIOD:

- Nil

Terms and conditions apply.

MR OLIVER CHEOK
NUS Global Merit Scholarship recipient

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Rail Design Development
LTA Undergraduate Scholarship
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(Civil & Environmental Engineering)

"There are always different scenarios to handle and that's where the excitement is. My work takes me to train depots all over Singapore to do the testing and commissioning of Rolling Stock vehicles where I often have to exercise my technical judgment and make informed decisions on site."

Zulfadli Bin Abdul Latiff
Executive Project Engineer,
Rolling Stock Projects
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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Mr Ong is passionate about teaching and aspires to be a principal in future. PHOTO: TED CHEN

Teaching outside the classroom

NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme scholar Ong Kian Jie is already a teacher in his own way

BY NIVANI ELANGO VAN

One might wonder what a five-week internship at organic farm Bollywood Veggies has to do with being a teacher. The answer is everything, at least to Mr Ong Kian Jie, in the NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP).
“As a helper there, I was expected to learn and work with a multitude of skills, including providing tours within the eco-farm, conducting workshops and camps for children and adults, as well as tending to the in-house bistro located there,” Mr Ong explains.
“It was a wonderful experience that tied into the Geography aspect of my degree, and I gained insight into food security, poverty and the importance of local food support.”
Mr Ong, 23, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). He aspires to become a principal in the future, and it is evident that teaching is his passion — apart from his Bollywood Veggies internship, Mr Ong has also been on a service learning trip to India and is the president of his Hall Council at NTU.

Chalking up experiences
But how do such experiences help him become a better educator?
Mr Ong’s trip to Sikkim, India, was in December 2016. It was part of an annual cultural exchange programme to teach and help the children living in the rural mountains of Sikkim.
“As a teacher-in-training, I felt the need to understand what it means to be a teacher not simply in Singapore, but the essence of being one,” Mr Ong says.
“Teaching in a completely different and unfamiliar environment opened my mind to how education can never be set in stone. It is highly dependent on the individual student, the environment, the personal circumstance and many more variables.”
Meanwhile, Mr Ong’s leadership role in his university’s Hall Council helps him hone leadership skills that he will need should he become a principal in the future. He started off as a recreational games director in 2016, and then became the president of NTU’s Pioneer Hall in the following year.
Mr Ong says: “I figured that if I wanted to understand the complexities of my students, I must first understand the people that are in my environment and be in similar shoes. Managing 600 university students with diverse interests and wants was a tough challenge, but I am glad to have gained the knowledge and skills through my term.”
He adds that his experience in the council has given him the skill of perspective-taking, and he has become a more empathetic person since then.
Inspiring mentor
Mr Ong was inspired by one of his teachers to become an educator himself. She is Madam Ang Wei May, who taught him mathematics while he was a Year 2 student at St. Andrew’s Junior College.
Describing her as his second mother, Mr Ong says she made him understand the importance of the subject and constantly nagged at him to complete his school work and to study hard for the future.
“Her passion for teaching inspired me to have the same selfless spirit a teacher has,” he says.

He took up the NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme local university scholarship in 2016.
In addition to benefits such as priority hall stay, financial security, and sponsored overseas trips to places like Helsinki and Boston, TSP scholars also enjoy a unique curriculum which covers two essential aspects — content and pedagogy mastery.
It ensures that scholars are thoroughly drilled with the content mastery equivalent to any university degree out there and adds on a layer of educational understanding — the “how to teach” aspect.
“We take up curriculum modules to understand our scope, educational modules to build our personal teaching philosophy and portfolio and research on our chosen subject within the education fraternity,” Mr Ong says.
He adds that TSP scholars get to conduct plenty of research and have close consultative exchanges with his professors on the modules and learning process, essentially taking charge of their own education. They work hand-in-hand with their professors to improve the learning environment for budding teachers.
“Knowledge is a never-ending abyss and it always helps to constantly absorb and learn,” Mr Ong believes. “After all, they always say ‘knowledge is power’.”

NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme

CRITERIA:

- Applicants must be in either the NTU BA (Ed) or BSc (Ed) programmes

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Fully sponsored under MOE’s Teaching Award or Teaching Scholarship

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years under MOE’s Teaching Award or Teaching Scholarship

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SMU also offers a variety of scholarships aimed at empowering future leaders to make a lasting positive impact on the global community. They include the Lee Kong Chian Scholars’ Programme for talented young individuals looking to specialise in Business Management, the SMU Merit Scholarship Programme for exceptional students looking for more programme flexibility and overseas exposure, and the Yip Pin Xiu Scholarship, SMU’s first full sports scholarship.

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Getting down to business

BCA Mid-Term Undergraduate Scholarship recipient Wan Kai Hui is embarking on her next level of learning



Miss Wan enjoys venturing out to learn more about construction on the ground.
PHOTO: BCA

BY NIVANI ELANGO VAN

Building and Construction Authority (BCA) civil engineer Miss Wan Kai Hui, 27, has a big appetite for learning. When she was pursuing a Master of Science in civil engineering from the National University of Singapore (NUS), she relished delving into mathematics and physics, and structural engineering and geotechnical engineering, which were related to her course.

Miss Wan, who received the BCA Mid-Term Undergraduate Scholarship in her second year at NUS, is now serving out her bond with BCA, and shares her experience working and learning at the organisation.

Please tell us more about what you do at BCA.

I am working in building control, where we regulate building structures in terms of safety to ensure that constructed buildings conform to the building standards stipulated in the Building Control Act and Regulations. We are also involved in cross-departmental work to come up with policies that would benefit the organisation and the industry.

What have you learnt at work?

I've experienced the issues that regulatory bodies face in enforcing our regulations in construction projects. We have to be strict when regulating the work of the consultant and builders, especially when it concerns public safety, which is our main focus as a government statutory board.

When I was working in a private consultancy firm during my secondment out of BCA, I saw how different parties had to work together in a construction project to deliver their intended outcomes, and work out a solution to satisfy all requirements.

What is it like working as a female civil engineer?

I think that contrary to common belief, a female civil engineer is not disadvantaged in the built environment sector.

While the construction site may seem to be a harsh environment for women — you tend to get dirty or work long hours — I quite enjoy venturing out to understand more about the construction on the ground and trying to solve issues faced during the construction process.

I think it is a positive sign to see more women joining this industry and I encourage those with the passion to come join the built environment sector.

BCA Mid-Term Undergraduate Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizens or Singapore permanent residents (PR)
- Enrolled in NTU, NUS, SUTD or SIT
- Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records
- Good university results

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Annual allowance
- Tuition and compulsory fees
- Book, computer and hostel allowance
- Sponsorship for student exchange programme

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years with BCA

Terms and conditions apply.



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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Always game for a challenge

Mr Daryl Bong's degree in Game Design helps him ace his job at Singtel

BY SANDRA CAMPBELL

Nowadays, few of us get to apply what we learn or love to a job in the real world. But Singapore Digital (SG:D) Scholarship (which incorporates the former Media Education Scholarship) awardee Daryl Bong, is making the most of his bachelor's degree in Game Design.

The 27-year-old is applying what he learnt to build non-game apps, and to create and refine app interactions as an interaction engineer at Singtel, to which he is bonded for four years.

"After my O levels, I graduated with a diploma in Game Design and Development from Singapore Polytechnic. I planned on doing my degree after National Service, and was applying for the DigiPen Institute of Technology and Singapore Institute of Technology (DigiPen-SIT) joint degree programme when I learnt of the SG:D Scholarship."

Open to all Singaporeans, it consolidates various industry bonded scholarships offered by the Infocommunications Media Development Authority (IMDA).

Open to change

However, when IMDA matched him with Singtel as his bonding company, he could not see how this would utilise the skills from his education.

"Then I learnt that Singtel was still transforming, and realised I should be open to doing the same," he says.

The full-tuition scholarship saw him through the four years of undergrad-

ate study (2013 to 2017). He says: "After seeing others cram extra classes to graduate faster and pay less fees, I was grateful for both the scholarship and bond."

The year 2015 was particularly memorable. He spent three months at DigiPen's Redmond campus in America via its Overseas Immersion Program. Soon afterwards, *Dungeon Delvers*, a 2-D action game he co-designed with three other DigiPen-SIT students, won the Best Student Game Award at the Independent Games Festival China.

Then, during a six-month Internship with Singtel's On-Air Promotions team, he created motion graphics for advertisements and interstitials. "Seeing my first ad on-air was so fulfilling. I also helped automate workflow processes with tools I created."

New responsibilities, exciting new projects

His Singtel bond commenced six months after graduation with the Management Associate Programme (MAP), an accelerated leadership programme that permits two rotations within Singtel across two years.

In his first year, he joined NCS (formerly National Computer Systems), and built an augmented-reality (AR) app using Unity, a game development software, for clients and partners to use at a global NCS convention. "I completed this exciting solo project in two months."

Now halfway into his second year and currently an interaction engineer,



PHOTO: TED CHEN

After seeing others cram extra classes to graduate faster and pay less fees, I was grateful for both the scholarship and bond.

MR DARYL BONG
interaction engineer
Singtel

Mr Bong creates and refines interactions of Singtel apps together with Singtel's Digital Experience team of UI/UX (User Interface and User Experience) designers and business engagement managers.

"This world is still new to me," he says, "but my studies on micro-interactions, polish, feature management, testing, and experience design really pay off here. A project I'm working on now introduces game-like elements such as player engagement and game mechanics into an otherwise non-game environment."

Of the future, Mr Bong says: "Whether I will be doing apps and such for Singtel or myself is not as important as the actual work and how it touches people."

Singapore Digital (SG:D) Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Be a Singapore citizen
- Have a good co-curricular activity (CCA) record
- Possess a strong interest in a career in infocomm media (ICM)
- Commence university studies within one year of award (that is, commence studies latest by Academic Year 2020 for 2019 awardees)

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition and other compulsory university fees
- Annual living allowance and a one-time computer allowance
- Medical insurance, visa fees, and more where mandatory
- Funding support for courses and certifications beyond school curriculum
- Support for overseas experiences including overseas internships, student exchange programmes, and competitions

BOND PERIOD:

- Bonds are served in an ICM-related role in any organisation (MNC, SME or start-up) in any industry - subject to IMDA's approval.

Terms and conditions apply.



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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Giving Singaporeans a secure retirement

Through his work at the Central Provident Fund Board, Mr Daniel Teo hopes to improve policies to help Singaporeans meet their retirement goals



Mr Teo has been involved in several initiatives related to retirement at CPF. PHOTO: TED CHEN

CPF Board Local Undergraduate Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Fresh A-level students and poly grads as well as current Year 1 and 2 undergraduates in local universities
- Possess outstanding A level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma or IB Diploma
- Good track record and active participation in CCAs
- Demonstrate strong leadership, good resource management and interpersonal skills, etc
- Strong desire for a meaningful career with CPF Board

VALUE OF AWARD:

- All approved tuition and compulsory fees, including overseas exchange programme where relevant
- Settling in allowance
- Competitive monthly allowance (covers hostel allowance where applicable)
- Engaging internship opportunities
- Exposure to meaningful work in CPF Board

BOND PERIOD:

- One year of bond period for every year of sponsorship

Terms and conditions apply.

BY BALVINDER SANDHU

At 30, Mr Daniel Teo is actively planning for retirement. Not just his own, but that of fellow Singaporeans.

It pains him to see elderly aunts and uncles in Singapore struggling to make ends meet during their silver years. And he wants to make a difference.

"I want policies to improve and evolve to meet society's changing needs. There's no better way of ensuring change than to be a part of it," he says.

Drawn by the broader social objective of the Central Provident Fund (CPF) Board, he applied for the CPF Board Local Undergraduate Scholarship at the end of the first year of his course at Nanyang Technological University.

The financial support and the guarantee of a job upon graduation allowed him to focus on learning and excelling as a student. He also explored disciplines such as the social sciences, and took modules on economics and psychology.

He joined the CPF Board in 2014 after graduating with a Bachelor in Business Administration (First Class Honours).

Since then, he has been involved in several initiatives related to his pet topic.

One of them was the CPF Advisory Panel recommendations, the main thrust of which was to provide more options to meet the different needs of CPF members. The proposals include introducing more flexibility for members to withdraw their savings and more ways to boost their nest egg.

The most memorable part of this project was helping out with the focus group discussions, where he got to interact with members of the public and hear their views on the improvements they want for their retirement years.

He found it both inspiring and refreshing to know that our policymakers value ground feedback and even sought to facilitate greater public involvement in policymaking.

Broadening perspectives

He was later seconded to the Ministry of Finance's (MOF) social programmes directorate for two years, during which he also looked at retirement-related policies such as the CPF scheme and the Supplementary Retirement Scheme, a voluntary scheme to encourage individuals to save for retirement, over and above their CPF.

He is currently an assistant director with the Central Provident Fund Board's (CPF Board) Home Protection Scheme (HPS) department, managing a team of junior officers in claims operations. The HPS is a mortgage-reducing insurance that protects members and their families against losing their HDB flat in the event of death, terminal illness or total permanent disability.

In all, his many postings at CPF and MOF have given him breadth and depth of exposure to Singapore's social security policy landscape and the review process, aiding in his development as a public officer.

As he looks to the future, retirement is still clearly on his mind, as the topic gains more urgency with Singapore's ageing population.

"Being a CPF ambassador means being in the thick of things. I hope to continue to help Singaporeans, including myself, have a secure retirement," he says.



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Pooja Bhagwan
Year 1, NUS Science
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Applications open from 1 February till 19 March 2019.



SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Mr Lim has embarked on a fulfilling career with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.
PHOTO: TED CHEN

Propelled by passion

MPA's Overseas Scholarship helps Mr Lim Ray Wen pave a career in Singapore's vibrant maritime industry

BY RACHEL TAN

Mr Lim Ray Wen has always had an affinity for ships. He used to sail with his family and has watched the movie *Titanic* five times. Now, he has a career that enables him to work on board ships for inspection purposes.

As a marine surveyor in the Flag State Control Department under the Shipping Division of Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the 30-year-old ensures that Singapore-registered ships are well maintained, safely operated and comply with international and national maritime regulations.

The vessels have to maintain their equipment and systems, keeping them in good condition, so that they are safe, secure and pollution-free at all times and will breeze through inspections at foreign ports. Mr Lim reveals that this high level of quality control by the Singapore Registry of Ships (SRS) attracts shipowners to register their vessels with Singapore, and contributes to

the vibrancy of the country's international maritime ecosystem.

Mr Lim also monitors and safeguards Singapore's strategic maritime interests through active participation at forums including meetings at International Maritime Organisation in London.

A sea of opportunities

Mr Lim's journey in the maritime industry began when he became an MPA scholar in 2010.

His interest stems from the appeal of Singapore's commercially-facing and vibrant maritime industry which provides a range of services for ships passing through its ports.

MPA's Overseas Scholarship helped Mr Lim get a foot in the door and gave him the opportunity to study abroad, where he broadened his horizons and gained a better understanding of other cultures and lifestyles. He completed his bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering at Newcastle University and master's degree in

Management at University of Cambridge.

He particularly cherished interacting with people of different nationalities while studying abroad. This experience proved to be essential to his present role, as he interacts with seafarers from all over the world when he interviews and assesses them in their tasks.

Prepped for the future

The maritime sector is well into the next wave of digital change. Mr Lim says ships and ports are becoming more intelligent, efficient and interconnected with the adoption of new technologies such as data analytics and the Internet of Things.

He was involved in the elimination of hard copies and issuance of electronic certificates and documents to Singapore ships. Other projects include the development of a data analytics dashboard to monitor the performance of Singapore ships.

"We have come a long way, transforming into a premier global hub port and international maritime centre," says Mr Lim. "And it doesn't end here. There is still room to grow in this ever-evolving industry."

Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) Overseas Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizens or permanent residents with outstanding academic results and a noteworthy CCA record

VALUE OF AWARD:

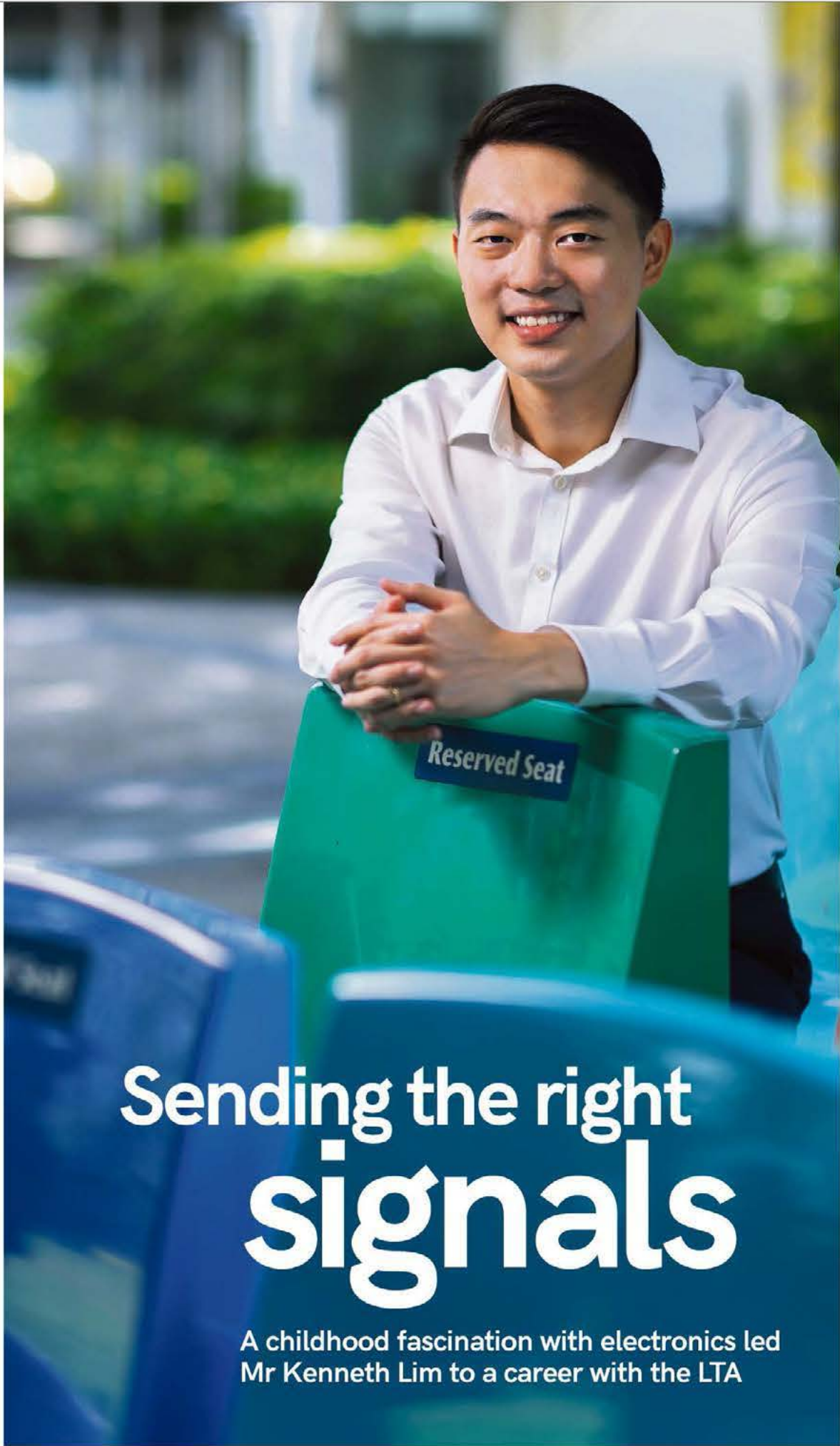
- Maintenance allowance, tuition and compulsory fees, return airfare (overseas study), other allowances where applicable

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years (local), six years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.

Mr Lim's career goal now is to continue delivering high-performing signalling systems for the upcoming train lines.
PHOTO: TED CHEN



Sending the right signals

A childhood fascination with electronics led Mr Kenneth Lim to a career with the LTA

BY JAC WOO

Since young, Mr Kenneth Lim has always been curious about how electrical and electronic devices work.

"I often took apart household appliances, much to my parents' dismay, to see how the internal components connected and functioned together," recalls Mr Lim, 30.

As he grew up, he took a greater interest in tinkering with computers and often thought about how electrical and electronic engineering could improve the buses and trains he rode daily.

This fascination led him to apply for the Land Transport Authority (LTA) Overseas Scholarship after his A Levels in Temasek Junior College.

Designing and testing

With the scholarship, Mr Lim pursued a Master of Engineering in electrical and electronic engineering with management at the Imperial College of London, United Kingdom, in 2009. He graduated with first class honours in 2013.

He is now working his dream job as a project manager for Signalling and PSD (Platform Screen Door), Rail Systems, in LTA.

He is part of the team that manages the implementation of the communication-based train control signalling system for the upcoming Thomson and Jurong Region Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) lines.

"The signalling system helps to drive the trains automatically. It intelligently controls and monitors the movement of trains, making optimal use of the railway infrastructure to deliver a high-capacity service that meets the highest standards of safety," he explains.

There is never a dull moment at work, he says. "In the morning, I could be in the office reviewing design documents and drawings. In the same afternoon, I could be on site at the depot, witnessing the testing of train-borne signalling equipment."

His most memorable moments are when he sees how his work directly shapes and improves the land transport system for everyone.

For example, he was involved in the implementation of the signalling system for the Tuas West Extension. "It brings me great pleasure to see it in operation today, enabling commuters working in the Tuas industrial areas to enjoy a shorter travel time," he says.

Travelling and debugging

Five years into the job, Mr Lim is grateful for the wealth of learning opportunities the LTA scholarship provided.

For instance, before the commencement of his overseas studies, LTA put him through an induction programme to equip him with life skills that could be useful away from home. He was also given access

to internship opportunities to gain a broad view of LTA's business.

His master's programme included a management component that equipped him to take on a project management role in a technical engineering environment.

It also enabled him to experience and study the transportation system in London and other European cities, identifying aspects that could potentially be enhanced in Singapore.

"My favourite subjects were digital signal processing and control engineering, and I especially enjoyed the late-night sessions in the electronics lab debugging and building prototypes for my coursework," recalls Mr Lim, who was also actively involved in diverse campus activities such as ballroom dancing and badminton.

What it takes

Mr Lim's career goal now is to continue delivering high-performing signalling systems for the upcoming train lines.

To students who are interested to enter this field, his advice is: "As an engineer in LTA, you have the rare opportunity to shape the land transport system and policies, directly improving the daily commute of fellow Singaporeans."

"Delivering such large-scale, complex infrastructure projects is challenging yet highly fulfilling. So you need a positive attitude and to be prepared to work hard and learn quickly. And be open and ready to take on new roles and challenges."

LTA Local/Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Excellent A-level results or equivalent qualifications (such as International Baccalaureate, NUS High School Diploma or polytechnic diploma)
- Outstanding university results (for current undergraduates)
- Good track record of co-curricular activities
- Singapore citizen or permanent resident

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition and compulsory fees
- Maintenance allowance
- Sponsorship of one approved student exchange programme or summer school
- Sponsorship for master's study, if applicable

BOND PERIOD:

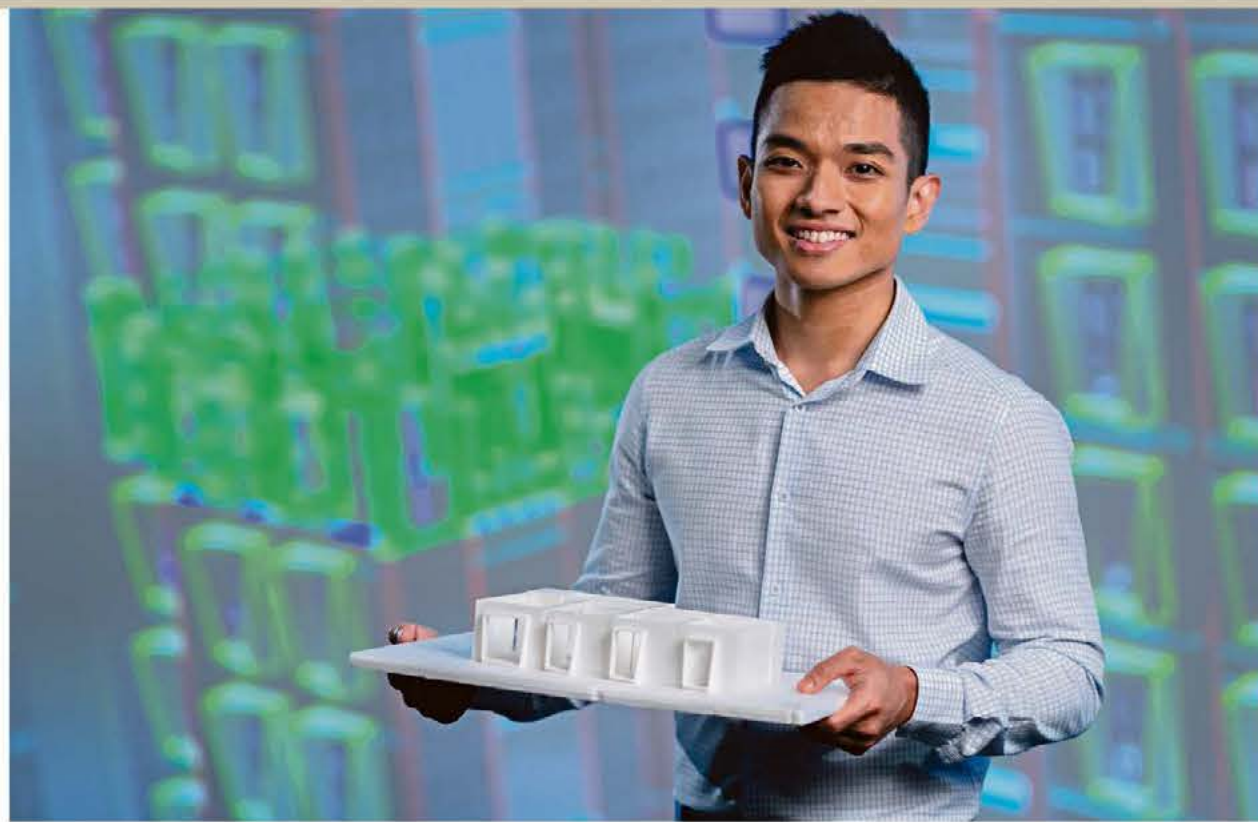
- Full-term scholarship: 4 to 6 years of service commitment
- Mid-term scholarship: 1 to 1.5 years of service commitment for every year of sponsorship

Terms and conditions apply.

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Building better homes

The Housing and Development Board Undergraduate Scholarship offers structural design engineer Jerald Han the opportunity to see his ideas come to life



Mr Han's buildings will soon be part of Singapore's built environment. PHOTO: TED CHEN

Housing and Development Board Undergraduate Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizens or permanent residents with outstanding academic results and CCA records

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Maintenance allowance, tuition and compulsory fees, return airfare (overseas study), other allowances where applicable

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years (local), six years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.

BY RACHEL TAN

Deeply fascinated by cities and their skylines, Mr Jerald Han spent his growing up years sketching buildings and urban landscapes in his free time.

Today, he is a structural design engineer in the Building & Research Institute's Centre of Design Excellence, under the Housing and Development Board (HDB).

It is a dream come true for the 26-year-old, whose buildings will soon be part of Singapore's skyline and built environment.

In his role, Mr Han collaborates with architects, landscape architects, as well as mechanical and electrical engineers, to develop safe and durable housing projects that Singaporeans will eventually call home.

This includes overseeing about two or three of the developments rolled out every year, and designing everything within a precinct — from the residential blocks and the carparks, to the environmental decks and drainage systems.

Mr Han will never forget the moment he first arrived at the construction site for his first key project — Northshore Edge, a 2017 Build-To-Order (BTO) development in Punggol.

He says: "It gave me a sense of where the structures I designed were going to be. It felt very real and gave an actual context to the designs that I had produced within my office space."

His other project, Tampines GreenGem, is a BTO launched in Nov 2018.

Learning beyond the classroom

Mr Han is motivated by a strong desire to be part of something tangible — something that can be seen and experienced by many.

He took the first step towards his dream in 2013 when he was awarded the HDB Undergraduate Scholarship.

Under the scholarship, Mr Han graduated with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 2017.

While his course exposed him to rigorous core engineering classes that equipped him with the technical skills such as structural analysis and calculations, the scholar also did much of his learning outside of the classroom.

During his scholarship internship, Mr Han was posted to his current office — the Centre of Design Excellence at HDB's Building & Research Institute.

In his current role, he was exposed to research on Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC), where volumetric modules are constructed in prefabrication plants before being transported to and installed on site. He now works on projects that involve improving the design of PPVC components for greater architectural flexibility.

"We have had to experiment a lot with our design and conduct research to ensure that our projects are safe, productive and have good spatial quality," he says.

Besides looking forward to the completion of his existing projects, Mr Han is also excited about the growing digitalisation of the building and construction industry, which has begun to move from 2D drawings to 3D Building Information Models.

"Making information more comprehensive during the design and construction stage also opens up many avenues to enhance facility management and perform data analytics on building use," he says.

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Ms Lim's love for people stands her in good stead as a nurse.
PHOTO: TED CHEN

Heeding the call

Family objections, long hours and physical demands did not faze Ms Keely Lim in her push to become a nurse

BY CHARMAINE CHAN

Many practical Singaporeans think about prospects or pay when deciding on a career. Not National Healthcare Group (NHG) polyclinic staff nurse Keely Lim, who talks about "receiving her calling" when describing how she decided to be a nurse.

Initially unclear about what career to pursue, Ms Lim had taken a gap year after her A levels to figure it out. During that time, she prayed and found direction from her faith, and also achieved a better understanding of who she was and what she wanted to do with her life.

"That year exposed me to experiences and people who helped me gain a stronger sense of self-awareness, and come to terms with my personality and strengths," says the self-confessed "extroverted introvert", who feels a special compassion not just for the sick but also the elderly.

She was introduced to an experienced nurse who "inspired and motivated" her. "She shared with me about the close bonds that she forged with her patients, how she earned their trust and gradually built close relationships with them," Ms Lim recounts. "I thought to myself that there must be something really special about this career."

Parental objections

Her decision was sealed and the rest should have been easy — except that she had not foreseen her parents' reaction. They had been spending a lot of time in hospital because her maternal grandfather had been frequently ill and had formed an opinion that "nursing was a tiring and dirty job".

"They asked me if I was aware of what I was getting myself into," says the now 24-year-old. "They were afraid that I would regret my decision."

She managed to allay their fears with her determination. "Once I set my mind and heart to pursue a certain direction, I stick to it and will not waver." She went on to enrol in the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies at the National University of Singapore, subsequently applying for and winning a Healthcare Merit Scholarship.

"My parents gradually accepted my decision as they noticed my joy in what I was studying through the many clinical stories that I shared with them," says Ms Lim.

People person

There were certainly many benefits that came with the scholarship, notably a week-long nursing immersion programme at Tokyo Ariake University of Medical and Health Sciences in 2016 and a two-week-long summer school programme at the University College of London in 2017.

Ms Lim graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) (Honours) and now works at Yishun Polyclinic under the NHG Polyclinics (NHGP) where she enjoys the outpatient setting — in direct contrast to her student days when most of her time was spent in an acute (inpatient) environment.

At the heart of it all, Ms Lim knows that her love for people is what will stand her in good stead as she contemplates a long career in nursing.

"Often, nurses are the ones conducting patient education but I believe we learn a lot from our patients as well," she says. "I've learned to be humble and to never judge a person on the surface because everyone has their own unique story to tell."

HEALTHCARE MERIT AWARD/HEALTHCARE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizen or permanent resident who is willing to take up Singapore citizenship
- Good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities
- Passion for serving in the public healthcare sector
- Good communication skills
- Outstanding A level results (offered at least 10 academic units), diploma with merit/distinction or equivalent qualifications

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition and compulsory fees
- Monthly allowance
- Pre-study allowance
- Sponsorship for approved developmental programmes
- Commencement award
- Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent)

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years (local)
- Six years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.



Ms Lee takes time to recharge her batteries to prevent compassion fatigue. PHOTO: CAROLINE CHIA

A heart to serve

Helping disadvantaged patients involves several levels of care — a job that medical social worker Lee Jiajin finds particularly rewarding

BY JOSHUA WONG

Medical social worker Lee Jiajin sees her job as a meaningful way to bring about positive social change.

The 27-year-old supports patients and their families at Sengkang General Hospital (SKH) through psychosocial interventions such as counselling, and helps those who have trouble paying their hospital bills to apply for financial assistance.

She focuses specially on diabetic patients and at-risk single mothers.

"Being a medical social worker has been an eye-opening experience. I get to share life's joys and sorrows with my patients and their families, which makes me aware of the responsibility I have in providing them with quality care," she says.

Willing hands

Ms Lee, who was on a Health Science

Scholarship — now known as a Healthcare Merit Scholarship — from the Ministry of Health Holdings (MOHH), graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor in Social Sciences with Honours (Social Work) in 2017. She has been working at SKH since then.

But her desire to help others began in earnest in 2010, when she was studying at Singapore Polytechnic.

As a volunteer with the Leo Club — a community service club — she was involved in various outreach events, including a trip to Penang, Malaysia in 2011 to visit children's homes and nursing homes for the elderly. She also served as the club's president from 2011 to 2012.

"Volunteering enabled me to focus on others and their struggles, and to make a difference in people's lives. It is a blessing to care and spread joy," she says.

When applying for university, Ms Lee wanted to do something that would allow her to continue helping the disad-

vantaged in society. The Health Science Scholarship seemed like a good fit, and she successfully applied for it.

Getting a scholarship helped her to focus on her studies without having to worry about finances. She also had a chance to go on a two-week cross-cultural exchange to China in 2016, fully sponsored by her scholarship.

Overcoming challenges with grace

While Ms Lee's work at SKH can be draining due to the emotionally distressed people she routinely interacts with, she has developed ways to cope. She believes in positive reframing and offering empathy, reminding herself that her patients are going through trying times and may be difficult to deal with as a result.

She knows that she has to look after her wellbeing too, and recharges her batteries regularly with some "me-time". She also draws strength from friendships at work.

"This keeps work stress at bay and prevents compassion fatigue," she says.

She appreciates the chance to serve her patients and looks forward to doing an even better job in the next few years.

"I'm grateful to be part of a profession that allows me to empower, advocate for, motivate and encourage my patients," she says.

HEALTHCARE MERIT AWARD/HEALTHCARE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizen or permanent resident who is willing to take up Singapore citizenship
- Good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities
- Passion for serving in the public healthcare sector
- Good communication skills
- Outstanding A level results (offered at least 10 academic units), diploma with merit/distinction or equivalent qualifications

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition and compulsory fees
- Monthly allowance
- Pre-study allowance
- Sponsorship for approved developmental programmes
- Commencement award
- Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent)

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years (local)
- Six years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



PHOTO: TED CHEN

A unique and diverse working experience

Opportunities abound for Ms Lee Su Fen, a deputy director at Singapore's central bank

BY AJ LEOW

Ms Lee Su Fen, 36, a deputy director at the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), heads the Data Analytics Group which is playing a key role in shaping the direction of digitisation in Singapore's financial sector.

"The use of big data and data analytics is a growing area across all industries, including the financial sector. As a financial regulator and central bank, it is important for us not only to keep abreast of such trends, but also to see how best to leverage them to do our work more effectively and efficiently," she notes.

What the group does is in essence look into harnessing the power of data analytics — formulating data management policies, managing data quality, developing appropriate data architectures, and fostering strategic activities and capabilities to develop the data analytics ecosystem.

Broadening her mind

Ms Lee is a beneficiary of the various career development programmes at MAS, having landed an overseas scholarship with the organisation after completing her A levels in 2000.

Back then, she had already set her mind on a lifelong career in the public service which was why she only applied for government scholarships. "I always thought of making a meaningful contribution to a larger goal which was to give back to society," she recalled.

She eventually settled on MAS which was one of the firsts to offer her an overseas scholarship. Although she had not studied economics in junior college, the finance sector had appealed to her due to its breadth and depth in scope for learning opportunities.

Ms Lee went on to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Electrical & Electronics Engineering at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California in the United States. She also followed up with a master's in Management Science & Engineering at Stanford.

"I viewed my electrical engineering degree as a training of the mind and a journey to hone my analytical and critical thinking skills. The scholarship did not restrict me in the choice of discipline as long as it was not in the specialised fields of medicine, dentistry or architecture."

In between her studies from 2001 to 2005, she also did an internship at MAS as part of her scholarship requirements, in the area of corporate communications handling public queries as well as contributing to the agency's annual report which gave her a good overview of what the MAS does, she says.

On the ascent

Upon her return to Singapore, Ms Lee was assigned a role in the banking supervision department where she conducted onsite visits to both local and foreign banks operating in Singapore, looking into their business models, operations and risk management controls.

"It was all new to me. I had to start from scratch; learning on the job from colleagues and mentors. Being thrown into the deep end compelled me to build up subject matter expertise quickly.

It was a stimulating experience and gave me a good overview of MAS' regulatory role in our financial sector," she adds.

She went on to hone her expertise in financial risk management and macroprudential surveillance, and was allowed the opportunity to pursue a doctorate in finance at the EDHEC Business School campus in Singapore (2011-2014).

Ms Lee appreciates that MAS has been very supportive of staff learning and development. It has an academy which coordinates training efforts to strengthen leadership and professional competencies. Over the years, guidance from her supervisors and senior colleagues has also enabled her to learn on the job quickly and pick up the necessary skills to do her job well.

"Overall, it has been a rewarding and fulfilling career as the job scope is rather unique. After all, it is not often that one gets the opportunity to work for a central bank or financial regulator," says Ms Lee.

Overall, it has been a rewarding and fulfilling career as the job scope is rather unique. After all, it is not often that one gets the opportunity to work for a central bank or financial regulator.

MS LEE SU FEN
deputy director
Monetary Authority of
Singapore

MAS Undergraduate and Postgraduate Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Outstanding academic achievements and co-curricular activities
- Strong leadership qualities
- Apply with: A levels (11 units) / International Baccalaureate (36 points) / Polytechnic Diploma (with merit)

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Covers tuition fees, allowances, and airfare

BOND PERIOD:

- Six years

Terms and conditions apply.



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Scholarship Recipient

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Institute of Molecular
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PhD, Harvard
University

DR DERRICK YONG ZHI YONG

A*STAR Graduate Scholarship
Recipient

Scientist II, Singapore Institute
of Manufacturing Technology

PhD, Nanyang
Technological University

DR SARAH LUO XINWEI

National Science
Scholarship Recipient

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Fellow, Singapore
Bioimaging Consortium

PhD, University of
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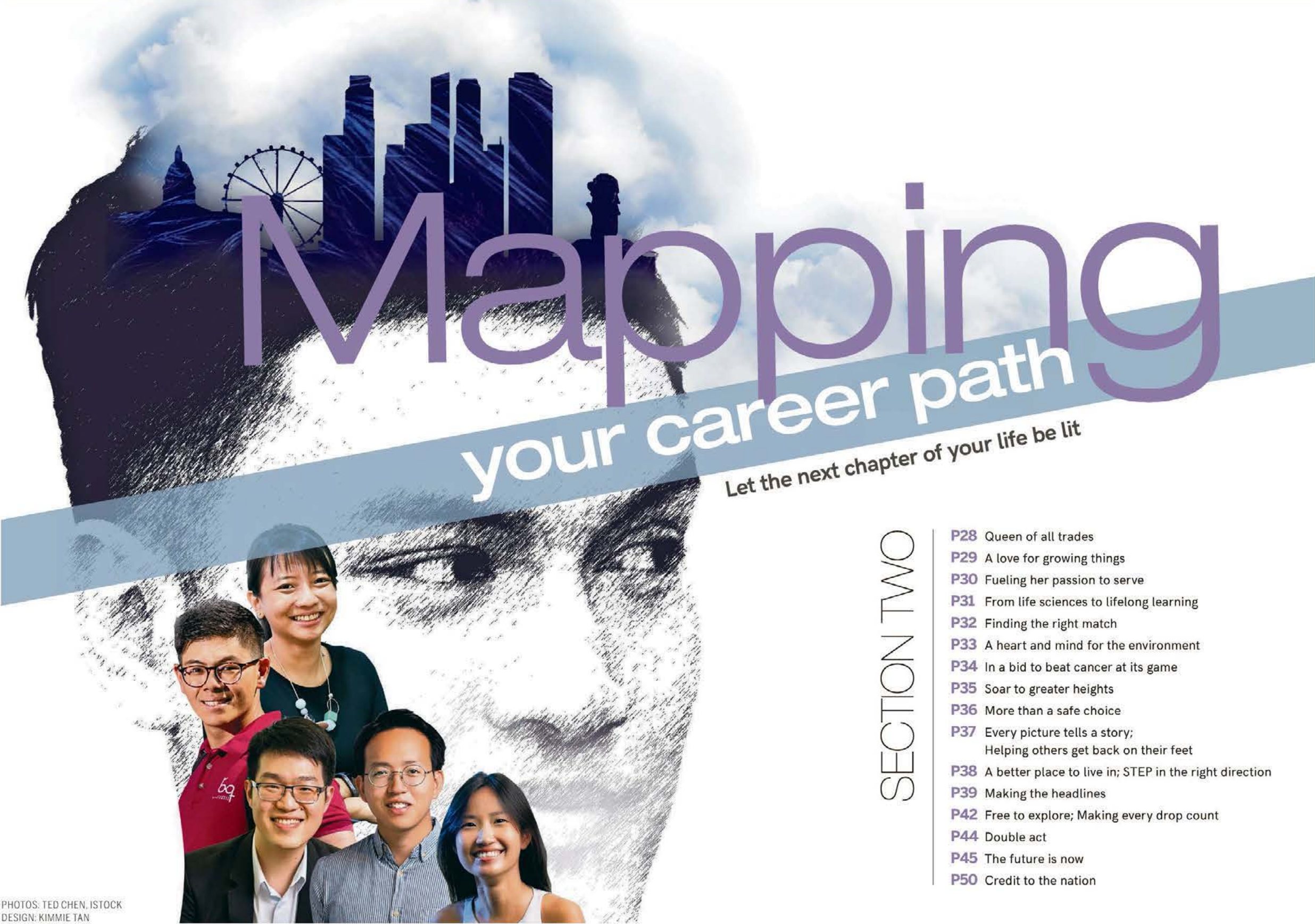
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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

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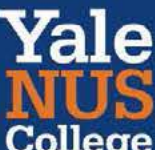


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PHOTOS: TED CHEN, ISTOCK
DESIGN: KIMMIE TAN



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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Queen of all trades

The MOE Teaching Scholarship has equipped Ms Alexa Meng to multitask, from classroom teaching to data analysis to policymaking

BRYANT CHAN

Ms Alexa Meng is quick to correct those who think the only career option for educators at the Ministry of Education (MOE) is teaching.

The recipient of the MOE Education Merit Scholarship is a poster girl for the diversity of roles scholars at the ministry can undertake.

Her first role when she joined MOE in 2015 was as a mathematics teacher at Outram Secondary School.

She now wears two hats — as a research analyst in MOE's Research and Management Information Division as well as a planning officer in the Planning Division.

Embracing challenges

Is straddling these two roles difficult?

Certainly. But this is precisely the kind of challenge that Ms Meng relishes.

As a research analyst, she analyses data to support educational policy formulation and review, which informs the decisions she makes in her second role.

In this capacity, Ms Meng has worked on highlight projects such as the review of the new Primary School Leaving Examination scoring system and formulating ways to improve educational support for low-progress students.

Today's world is changing fast, thanks to the advent of new technologies and business models, she says. "It's challenging to develop new paradigms of thinking and pedagogies that will train students to function in this new era."



Ms Alexa Meng straddles the roles of both a research analyst and planning officer in the Ministry of Education. PHOTO: TED CHEN

Daring attitude

Ms Meng credits her scholarship experience for cultivating her well-rounded skill set and "dare-to-dream, dare-to-fail" mentality.

While pursuing her bachelor's degree in mathematics and management studies at the University College London (UCL), she had to step out of her comfort zone.

"Being a foreign student in an unfamiliar environment, I had to start examining issues from different perspectives, become more independent and accept new challenges that arose along the way," she says.

Ms Meng was elected as the only non-Caucasian student trustee of the Union Council, and even joined the UCL Incubator programme to develop her own start-up — both formative events that were the highlights of her university years.

She decided to embark on an additional master's degree in statistics at Harvard University after completing a statistics research project in her final year.

It was this project that opened her eyes to the

practical uses of statistics and computing, and how they could be applied to positively influence the education system.

Futureproofing education

While Ms Meng enjoys her current work in policy and data analysis, she is eager to return to the classroom when the opportunity arises.

She points out that even though Singapore's education system has been producing a world-class, highly efficient workforce, educators and policymakers need to keep finding ways to maintain this competitive advantage in the decades to come.

It is in solving these problems that Ms Meng feels she can truly shine.

Her work at the MOE Headquarters (HQ) has given her a better understanding of the intentions behind the various policies, as well as the constraints and trade-offs, she says.

"With the experience in the HQ, I'm now in a better position to implement policies and provide better guidance for my students."

MOE Education Merit Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizens, or Singapore permanent residents who take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies
- Good character, strong leadership qualities and keen passion for education
- Strong co-curricular activities (CCA) records
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- A levels (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High Diploma or equivalent
- Reputable overseas universities, local autonomous universities, or NTU-NIE
- Courses/Disciplines:
 - Languages
 - Humanities
 - Art and Music
 - Physical Education and Sports Science
 - Social Sciences
 - Sciences
 - Mathematics

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges
- Maintenance and pre-studies allowance
- Return economy airfare (for overseas studies only)
- Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment and HQ internship)
- Opportunities to participate in overseas school attachment
- Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs
- Possibility of sponsorship of master's degree (if requirements are met)
- Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree

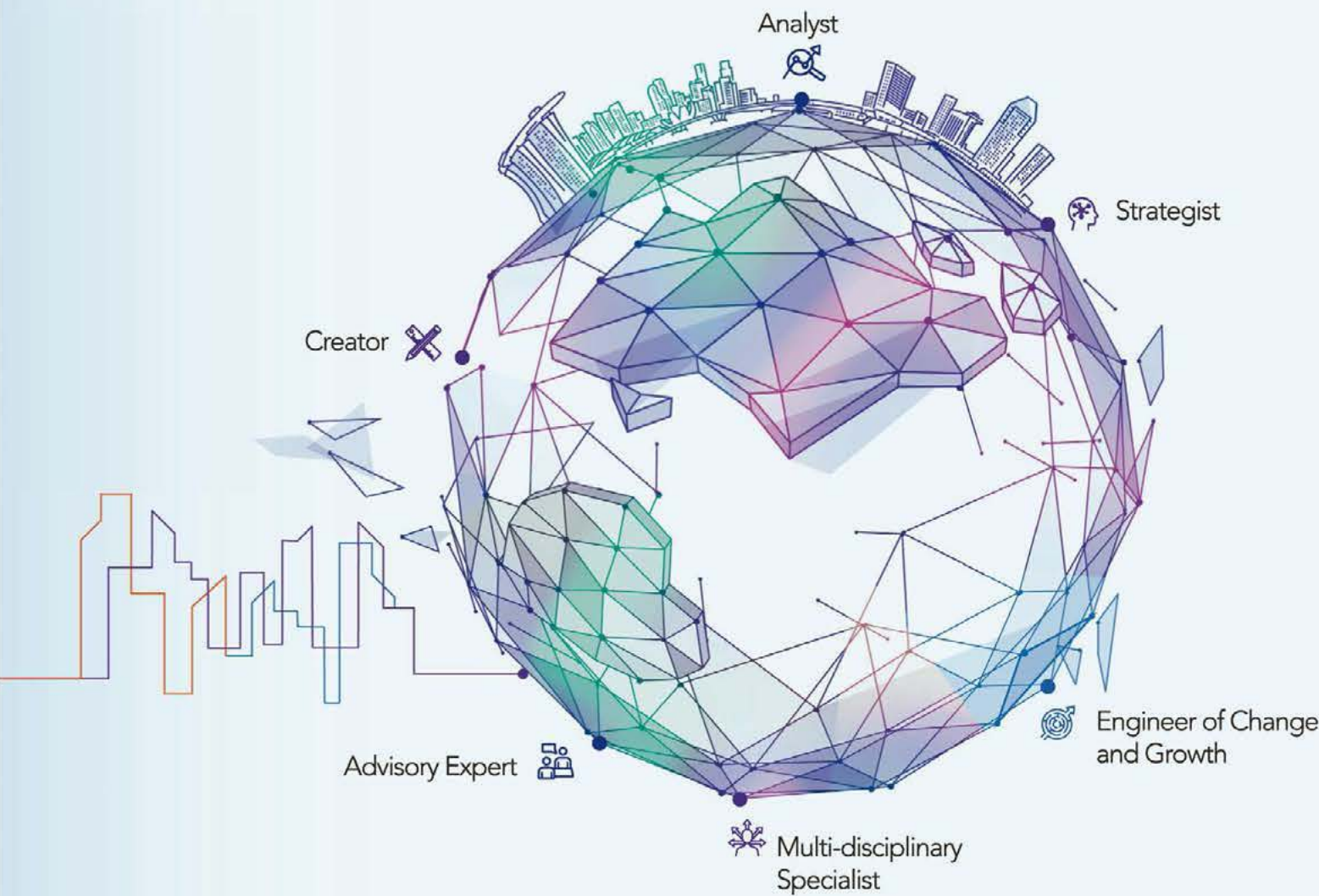
BOND PERIOD:

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Miss Tan (sixth from left) engaged in many volunteer activities as president of the ACS(I) Interact Club.
PHOTO: DEBORAH TAN

Fuelling her passion to serve

People's Association Scholarship
recipient Deborah Tan aims to
build and bridge communities

BY NIVANI ELANGO VAN

“Growing up, I learned about serving the community through volunteering activities with my parents,” says Miss Deborah Tan, the 19-year-old recipient of the People's Association (PA) Scholarship.

Despite her youth, Miss Tan has already participated in countless service activities, helping the community through many initiatives.

As a student at Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) or ACS(I), she served as the president of the Interact Club, a Rotary-sponsored service club. “I helped the club to collaborate with the Environment Focus Group to hold a joint flea market to raise funds for community projects and promote environmental awareness,” says Miss Tan. The Environment Focus Group is a student-initiated club at ACS(I), primarily aimed to raise environmental awareness among the school's students.

She also worked with other executive committee members to expand the club's scope of service, by establishing a reading programme with the Heart Friends Center as well as a pet therapy programme at Mount Elizabeth Hospital.

Her volunteering pursuits spread far and wide — as a member of ACS(I) Independent Stage, she was able to combine her service and artistic interests into a performance at Jurong Regional Library, which allowed her to bring Shakespeare to the community. She also flew to Guilin, China, for an overseas values-in-action trip where she helped to renovate a village school, conducted lessons and aided elderly villagers with farm work.

She explains: “These activities made me realise how different communities can be served in a broader sense.”

Deepening her understanding

Miss Tan is currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts in social anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

“As a course that gives insight into human behaviour and societies, anthropology can provide me with a better understanding of cultural complexities, while anthropological studies can provide a dependable basis for the formulation of policy,” she explains. “I also believe that anthropology, as the study of humans, will further reinforce my passion to serve communities.”

It was this desire to serve the community that led her to the PA scholarship. She explains that her beliefs align with PA's mission to build and bridge communities.

“I feel that joining the organisation would allow me to pair and develop my passions and skills to serve the Singapore public,” Miss Tan says.

She adds: “As someone with varied interests, I also appreciated PA's scope of focus on numerous areas like active ageing, heritage and the arts. Particularly, the issue of Singapore's ageing population is close to my heart as I have many elderly relatives.

“This, along with coordinating weekly home visits to elderly residents with the Dover Residents' Committee during my time in

the ACS(I) Interact Club, inspired me to play a part in supporting active ageing with PA.”

Sense of purpose

As an overseas scholarship recipient at LSE, Miss Tan is bonded to the PA for six years. Her tuition fees are covered and she receives a monthly allowance for living expenses. There are also internship opportunities at the PA during summer breaks to help scholarship recipients better understand the PA so they can serve more efficiently upon returning.

She says: “The scholarship gives me a greater sense of purpose as I go about my university education. Having a clear sense of direction about my future is motivating as it gives even more meaning to my studies.”

People's Association
Scholarship

- CRITERIA:**
- Singapore citizenship
 - Demonstrate leadership qualities, community involvement and a strong interest to serve and make a difference to the community
 - Have A levels, International Baccalaureate, polytechnic diploma and/or equivalent qualifications
- VALUE OF AWARD:**
- Full tuition and compulsory fees, monthly maintenance allowance
 - Pre-studies allowance
 - Sponsorship for approved student exchange programme
 - Scholarship of Master's degree, return airfare (for overseas universities)
 - Medical/health insurance (where required by the university)

- BOND PERIOD:**
- Four years (local)
 - Six years (overseas)

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Ms Ng is adept at adapting her skills to suit different job roles in the public service. PHOTO: TED CHEN

From life sciences to lifelong learning

**PSC Scholarship holder
Eileen Ng applies her scientific
skills in her current role in
MOE's SkillsFuture Division**

BY JAC WOO

A biomedical science graduate developing policies to drive lifelong learning may seem like a job mismatch, but Ms Eileen Ng, assistant director of the Ministry of Education's SkillsFuture Division, assures you that it is actually a better fit than you realise.

The 27-year-old Public Service Commission (PSC) Overseas Merit Scholarship recipient holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Biomedical Science from Imperial College London, and Master of Science in Global Health Science from the University of Oxford.

She says: "My training in scientific inquiry has taught me some important transferable skills, such as using evidence and data to facilitate decision-making."

"For example, we need to design appropriate studies to evaluate the outcomes of policies or collect relevant data that will allow us to isolate the causes or drivers of issues. This is increasingly important with the emphasis on data-driven, evidence-based policy-making."

As Ms Ng serves out her six-year scholarship bond in the public service, she herself has become adept at adapting her skills to suit different job roles.

PSC Scholarship holders undergo job rotations in various sectors under the Public Service Leadership Programme.

When Ms Ng graduated in 2014, she was deployed to the Municipal Services Office under the Ministry of National Development for two years, where she looked into streamlining the processes between the public agencies and Town Councils.

Thereafter, she did a six-month stint in the Housing and Development Board where she also looked at improving processes but, this time, from an agency's perspective.

"Such rotations are useful because they allow us to be exposed to different parts of the public service to explore different areas of interests. They also challenge us to keep learning on the job," say Ms Ng.

Walking the talk

In her current role at MOE, Ms Ng's team helps to drive the SkillsFuture movement by developing policies and programmes that support Singaporeans in their lifelong learning journey.

She says: "It is increasingly important that everyone should continue learning even after leaving school because the faster pace of technological disruptions in recent years will bring about jobs that may be very different

from today's jobs and require very different skill sets."

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Ms Ng recalls how her interest in human biology led her to pursue two degrees to deepen her understanding of the subject.

One of the highlights of her studies was her two-month internship at the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark.

She recalls: "During the internship, I witnessed some of the coordination work done at the international level to improve health standards worldwide."

"It was a rare opportunity to see the behind-the-scenes work involved in helping countries level up their health practices and also to meet experts from all over the world."

Ms Ng wants to continue learning and contributing to different aspects of work in public service.

"Being able to contribute towards measures that will matter to and improve the lives of fellow Singaporeans is important to me," she says.

Public Service Commission (PSC) Scholarships

CRITERIA:

- Strong leadership qualities and interest in a public service career
- A levels, International Baccalaureate Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, polytechnic diploma or other equivalent qualifications
- Good co-curricular activities (CCAs) record
- Singapore citizen or permanent resident who will take up Singapore citizenship before commencement of study

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition fees and other approved charges
- Maintenance and other allowances
- Return airfare (if applicable)
- Sponsorship of PSC development programmes, approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs
- Sponsorship of master's programme (if requirements are met)

BOND PERIOD:

- For undergraduate study in:
 - English-speaking countries: six years
 - Non-English-speaking countries: five years
 - Singapore: four years

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Beyond my early globe-trotting dreams, I am deeply grateful to play a part in Singapore's development efforts on the international front.

Mr Kevin Low
lead
Infrastructure Asia



Finding the
right
match

The Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship led Mr Kevin Low to a fulfilling, globetrotting career

PHOTO: TED CHEN



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Duration of Bond
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Auditing For The Nation

BY RACHEL TAN

Rural communities are enjoying access to clean water and that may have to do with Mr Kevin Low's contributions.

As a lead in Infrastructure Asia, the 29-year-old helps regional clients identify gaps in their utilities needs and match them with Singapore agencies and companies with the expertise to drive and execute the projects.

Infrastructure Asia is a newly-formed organisation by Enterprise Singapore and the Monetary Authority of Singapore, which drives infrastructure projects in the region. Enterprise Singapore works closely with local companies to build their capabilities, innovate and expand into overseas markets.

His previous experience as an officer at Enterprise Singapore's Urban Solutions Division is integral to his current role as it gave him the opportunity to consider how Singapore-designed solutions for more developed markets can be adapted to address the needs of developing markets in South-east Asia.

Mr Low's scope of work lies in areas related to the environment, such as power, energy and water treatment plants.

He considers a water treatment plant project in Indonesia a highlight in his three-year career with Enterprise Singapore. He worked with a Singapore water treatment company to secure the investment project.

Mr Low and his team took over two years of on-the-ground work and relationship building with partners in Indonesia to build trust and understand the needs of the client, before getting the project off the ground.

This is because the regulations and ways of doing business in overseas markets can be very different from Singapore, and the complexity of infrastructure projects also means that gestation periods are longer.

He says: "It was significant for me because we'd been trying to help grow this water treatment company into an asset developer, and the multi-year effort eventually bore fruit."

Making a difference

Mr Low, a recipient of the Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship, began his career as an officer in Enterprise Singapore's Urban Solutions Division in 2015 after completing a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics in 2013, and a Master of Arts in Economics from New York University in 2014.

He was seconded to Infrastructure Asia last April.

His work at Enterprise Singapore and Infrastructure Asia has taken him to many countries in South-east Asia.

In Singapore, he meets potential investors and providers of professional services to understand their capabilities, risk appetite, concerns, as well as their target market. When abroad, he engages the government of that particular city or country to find out their development plans and talk to local businesses that may require infrastructure services. He then matches them with the relevant Singapore-based companies.

He shares that the best part of his career is witnessing the growth of individual enterprises as they spread their wings into regional and international markets.

"Beyond my early globe-trotting dreams, I am deeply grateful to play a part in Singapore's development efforts on the international front."

Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizens with outstanding academic results, active participation in CCAs, excellent communication skills and leadership potential

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition fees, living and pre-studies allowance, return airfare and other miscellaneous expenses required for overseas undergraduate studies

BOND PERIOD:

- Two years (local), four to five years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



PHOTO: TED CHEN

By encouraging officers to work in different fields throughout their career, NEA provides officers with unique insights on environmental challenges.

MR LINCOLN ANG
engineer
Resource Conservation Department
National Environment Agency

BY RACHEL TAN

In resource-scarce Singapore where renewable energy is limited, engineer Lincoln Ang's role is vital in promoting energy efficiency and conservation to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change.

The 26-year-old works in the Resource Conservation Department at the National Environment Agency (NEA).

He analyses the data provided by NEA's energy-intensive industrial partners to evaluate and improve the energy efficiency of their systems and equipment.

He says: "The industry sector is the largest consumer of energy in Singapore, and also accounts for about 60 per cent of Singapore's greenhouse gas emissions. Improvements in energy efficiency within the sector directly translate to substantial amounts of carbon abatement for our country."

He took on this role after completing a four-year direct Master of Engineering (Chemical with Nuclear Engineering) from Imperial College London in 2017, under the National Environment & Water (NEW) Scholarship.

Led by the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, NEA and PUB jointly launched the NEW Scholarship in 2008, aimed at safeguarding Singapore's environmental sustainability. The scholarship targets students with a keen interest in the dynamic environment and water sector.

A holistic experience

For Mr Ang, who has always been keen in areas concerning the environment, applying for the NEW Scholarship was a natural step.

In 2011, he was one of the 15 outstanding recipients of the scholarship.

He attributes his decision to pursue a degree in Chemical with Nuclear Engineering to his fascination at the potential of nuclear power as a sustainable energy source.

The scholar also believes that it is far from a niche field.

"Knowledge in materials engineering is necessary when designing reactors to withstand high temperature and radiation levels, and understanding of mechanical

engineering is required to ensure that equipment like pipes, pumps and turbines function properly."

In addition to having their university fees covered, scholars also receive sponsorship for enrichment and exchange programmes.

Mr Ang attended a course on Global Energy & Environmental Politics at Harvard University's Summer School, which ultimately inspired him to join his current department in NEA.

At the summer school, he learnt about alternative sources of energy that are being used internationally.

This knowledge forms the core of Mr Ang's present role to improve the energy efficiency of Singapore's industry sector.

He believes there will be greater demand for innovative solutions to address new environmental issues that affect future generations.

"By encouraging officers to work in different fields throughout their career, NEA also provides officers with unique insights on environmental challenges."

National Environment & Water (NEW) Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizens or permanent residents with outstanding academic results and a noteworthy CCA record
- A-level, International Baccalaureate, Polytechnic, NUS High students and undergraduates may apply

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Maintenance allowance, tuition and compulsory fees, return airfare (overseas study), allowances for computer, books and other living expenses where applicable, sponsorship for approved enrichment, exchange programmes, possibility of pursuing postgraduate degrees.

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years (local)
- Six years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.

A heart and mind for the environment

The National Environment & Water Scholarship gave Mr Lincoln Ang the chance to pursue his passion for the environment and more



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Dr Li Jingmei's work has placed her among the world's best scientific minds. PHOTO: TED CHEN

In a bid to beat cancer at its game

Dr Li Jingmei devotes herself to stopping breast cancer in its tracks

BY LUKE TAN

To say breast cancer researcher Li Jingmei loves her job would be an understatement.

The senior research scientist at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research's (A*Star) Genome Institute has made it her life's mission to cure the debilitating disease.

The 36-year-old says: "Breast cancer is still one of the top cancers. A third of all cancers diagnosed in women are breast cancers. It's also a growing problem — the number of new cases diagnosed every year has nearly tripled, while incidences of other cancers have largely remained the same."

Dr Li's current research, funded by the National Research Foundation Singapore and carried out at the Genome Institute of Singapore, is to identify women at high risk of breast cancer and improve screening programmes to enhance early detection.

This is crucial as currently only two-thirds of women aged 50 to 69 in Singapore have had a mammogram. Improving this figure — and encouraging women at high risk of breast cancer to follow up with biennial screenings — is a message Dr Li hopes will be more widely heard.

Seizing opportunities

Even as a young graduate holding a Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences (Biology) from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2006, Dr Li already knew she wanted to specialise in breast cancer research.

So the recipient of the NUS Undergraduate Scholarship and Faculty of Science valedictorian applied for the A*STAR Graduate Scholarship (AGS) Overseas Graduate Scholarship to pursue her postgraduate studies in Medical Science at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden.

During my doctoral studies, I was assigned to four very different supervisors: a Chinese geneticist, a Swedish cancer oncologist, a Czech epidemiologist and an English mathematician. It was like an academic arranged marriage.

DR LI JINGMEI
senior research scientist
A*Star

She recalls: "As a young researcher, I was attracted by the strong collaborations already formed between Singapore and other countries at the A*Star research institutes."

The programme structure of the scholarship doubled Dr Li's academic network, allowing her to learn from the best minds both at home and at a partner university. "During my doctoral studies, I was assigned to four very different supervisors: a Chinese geneticist, a Swedish cancer oncologist, a Czech epidemiologist and an English mathematician. It was like an academic arranged marriage."

Besides allowances, the scholarship provided her with overseas travel expenses for one overseas conference per year — which helped her expand her international network very early in her career.

Dr Li says: "As the saying goes, 'Talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not.' This scholarship gave me opportunities."

Awards and rewards

The decorated female scientist's acumen and commitment to furthering research in her field has garnered her numerous accolades, from the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Fellowship to the 2017 Young Scientist Award at the President's Science and Technology Awards.

Her exuberant zest extends to other parts of her life as well — Dr Li takes time out to enjoy the good life whenever she can, whether it is by the pool reading a book (the avid reader finishes up to three books a week) or exploring the depths of the sea as a diver.

She says: "Diving is calming, much like meditation. And looking for breakthroughs in scientific data is like discovering marine creatures. The answer is right there — one just needs to have the right frame of mind to see it."

A*STAR Graduate Scholarship (AGS)

CRITERIA:

- Be Singaporeans and other nationals intending to take up Singapore citizenship
- Satisfy criteria for and seek admission into NTU, NUS, Duke-NUS, SMU (Information Systems) and SUTD PhD programme
- Have obtained at least a 2nd Upper Class Honours Degree or equivalent in relevant disciplines
- Have strong interest in a research career

VALUE OF AWARD:

Successful applicants will be given the following support for up to four years:

- Full tuition fees
- Monthly sustenance allowance, inclusive of CPF contribution (where applicable)
- Other allowances including book, computer, conference and thesis allowances
- Support for up to 12 months of overseas attachment

BOND PERIOD:

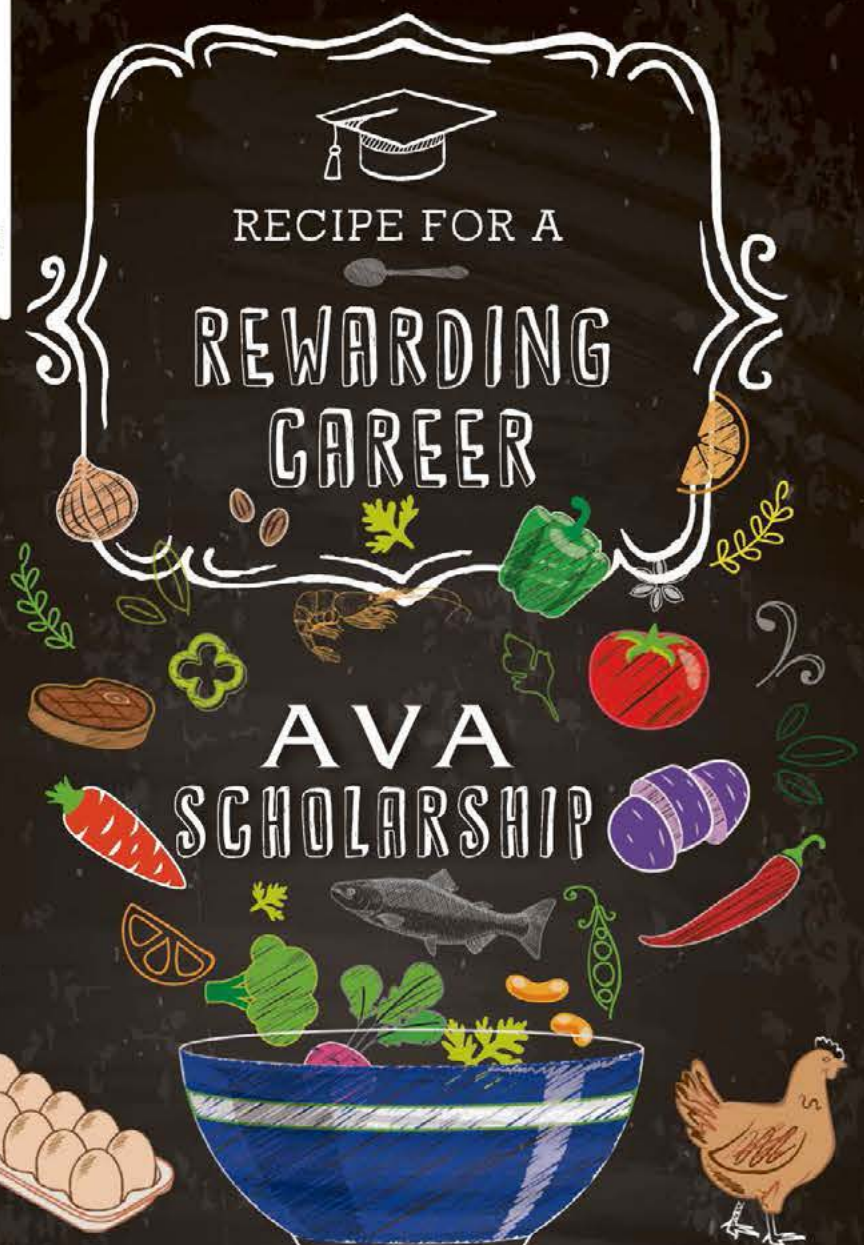
- Singaporeans (at the point of award): No service commitment
- Non-Singaporeans (at the point of award): two-year service in Singapore-based companies without commitment to any specific organisation. The area of work should preferably be in Biomedical Sciences, Physical Sciences or Engineering.

Terms and conditions apply.



RECIPE FOR A REWARDING CAREER

AVA SCHOLARSHIP



On 1 April 2019, the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) will be formed under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources to oversee food safety and security. The SFA will bring together all food-related functions currently carried out by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), the National Environment Agency (NEA) and Health Sciences Authority (HSA).

Applicants interested in scholarships in food-related disciplines offered by AVA may submit applications to AVA during the application cycle. Successful applicants will be awarded the SFA Undergraduate Scholarship.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents (Singapore Permanent Residents must take up citizenship)
- Strong academic and CCA records
- Applicants for mid-term scholarship should also have excellent university results

ACT NOW

Closing date
2 weeks after the release of the GCE 'A' level examination results. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE

- Agricultural Sciences
- Aquaculture
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Food Science/Food Technology
- Life Sciences
- Microbiology
- Other Related Disciplines

For more information, please visit www.ava.gov.sg/careers/scholarships or contact us at <AVA_HR@ava.gov.sg>

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Ms Neo is keen to play a part in developing Jewel Changi Airport as an exciting lifestyle destination for Singaporeans. PHOTO: NEO KAI LING

Changi Airport Group (CAG) Overseas Scholarship

- CRITERIA:**
- Outstanding academic results and CCA records, as well as strong leadership qualities
- VALUE OF AWARD:**
- Maintenance allowance, tuition and compulsory fees, return airfare (overseas study), other allowances where applicable
- BOND PERIOD:**
- Three years (local)
 - Five years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.

Soar to greater heights

The Changi Airport Group Overseas Scholarship has enabled Ms Neo Kai Ling to develop her potential

BY RACHEL TAN

Changi Airport has received more than 580 World's Best Airport awards to date, but to Ms Neo Kai Ling, the feted airport is so much more than the sum of its accolades.

The 23-year-old says: "When I was a kid, I often headed to the airport for a meal or spot planes with my family. To me, Changi Airport is not just a node to travel through, but also a destination."

It is for this reason that she wanted to make Changi Airport her workplace too.

In 2014, Ms Neo became one of six recipients to be awarded the Changi Airport Group (CAG) Overseas Scholarship.

With the scholarship, she completed a Bachelor of Science in Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the United Kingdom in 2017. She is now pursuing a Master of Science in Transportation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States.

The sky is the limit

Ms Neo appreciates that the CAG Overseas Scholarship gave her the freedom to pursue her interest in the humanities at the undergraduate level. It also enabled her to challenge herself in engineering graduate school.

The learning curve at the latter was steep but being exposed to many interesting projects with real-life relevance helped her to rise to the challenge.

For example, she built a travel planning chatbot with her teammates that suggests various transport options for passengers to get to their destinations in Boston, US.

In her research, she used aircraft tracks data to analyse airfield performance and plan future operations.

Ms Neo thinks that her unique blend of education in the humanities and engineering science will enable her to better contribute to her work at CAG.

She says: "I am not only able to understand the technicalities behind operations and technology, but also think critically about the humanistic aspect

of operations and technology, and the business case for them."

Delighting every visitor

CAG's all-round service excellence extends to even its scholars, who are treated to care packages while studying overseas.

Recalls Ms Neo: "They sent us boxes filled with local snacks during Chinese New Year and the period for our exam finals. We also received personalised cards during the festive season."

In the same vein, she hopes to delight the airport's visitors by delivering novel passenger experiences.

"I'd love to help improve current operations by making it more seamless and efficient, in order to enhance passenger experience and make travel as fuss-free as possible," she says.

With the opening of Jewel Changi Airport, Ms Neo is also excited about helping to develop it as an exciting lifestyle destination for Singaporeans.

She will be joining CAG after graduating in June this year, and will be serving a five-year bond. "By joining CAG, I hope to not only become part of the team that advances the frontier of aviation and airport management, but also places Singapore on the world map."

By joining CAG, I hope to not only become part of the team that advances the frontier of aviation and airport management, but also places Singapore on the world map.

MS NEO KAI LING
CAG Overseas Scholarship recipient

Plan Our Future Together

If you are passionate and have a strong desire to make a difference to Singapore, apply for the URA Scholarship at www.ura.gov.sg/scholarship.

The URA Scholarship is offered for:

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- Landscape Architecture
- Town / Urban Planning
- Economics
- Mathematics / Statistics
- Geography
- Computer / Data Science
- Information Systems Management
- Environmental Engineering / Studies
- Civil Engineering
- Real Estate



URA
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

To make Singapore a great city to live, work and play

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



More than a
safe
choice

Senior assistant director Portia Loh suggests applying for the MHA scholarship as your first move in winning security "chess"

My work at MHA allows me to make a meaningful difference in keeping Singapore safe and secure, while at the same time challenging myself continuously.

DR PORTIA LOH
senior assistant director
MHA

Although Dr Loh is in a male-dominated line, she is convinced that equal opportunities exist for success. PHOTO: TED CHEN

Building and Construction Authority

MAKE YOUR MARK

We constantly shape the landscape to prepare for the future of Singapore, rally the built environment sector to achieve far-reaching goals beyond today, and improve the living environment for Singaporeans from all walks of life. Discover scholarship opportunities to build your career on.

I believe in starting on a solid foundation.
Because we are the ones who shape the built environment where everyone lives, works and plays. At BCA, I help to ensure that structures all over Singapore are built safely.

Kwa Chin Soon
Senior Engineer
Strategic Planning Office

BCA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (LOCAL / OVERSEAS)

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The iBuildSG Scholarship and Sponsorship programme is a collaborative effort between BCA and leading industry players. The programme is designed to groom a new generation of top-notch building industry professionals. It offers students of high calibre and vision a challenging, fulfilling and rewarding career that allows them to contribute to society and the built environment at the same time.

For more information about our BCA Scholarships / Sponsorships, visit www.buildingcareers.gov.sg

We shape a **safe, high quality, sustainable** and **friendly** built environment.

BY LUKE TAN

She may enjoy her weekly round of tennis with her colleagues, but the real game Dr Portia Loh relishes is security "chess" — making technological moves to outfox the threats facing Singapore.

Each day, this "game" plays out at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), where Dr Loh is one of its "grandmasters" as senior assistant director (Partnerships and Transitions) at the Office of the Chief Science and Technology Officer. She is also senior assistant director at the Planning and Organisation Division of MHA Science and Technology Strategy Office.

Her work involves cutting-edge technologies that range from detection and scanning capabilities, to new forensics tools that provide additional leads for law enforcement investigators to follow up on.

Strategic moves

The 35-year-old secured her undergraduate degree with honours in biotechnology from Imperial College London in 2004, before going on to obtain a doctorate in biological sciences from the National University of Singapore in 2009.

She made another strategic move when, during her doctorate, she did research to better understand how tumour suppressor genes worked. While "intellectually stimulating", Dr Loh soon realised that remaining in academia was not going to be a long-term choice for her. "I did not want work in a company focused on growing its bottom line."

After two years of postdoctoral research, she crossed over to applied research and development, which aims to develop capabilities that bring direct benefit to the Home Team.

And while details of her creations must be withheld for security reasons, MHA has shared examples of them with the general public: police cameras that can automatically flag suspicious incidents for analysis, and exoskeletons aimed at increasing the strength and endurance of firefighters and rescuers.

Actual impact

Although Dr Loh is in a male-dominated line, she is convinced that equal opportunities exist for success. "One's pursuit of excellence is what levels the playing field," she says.

For her, the game is won when her projects produce actual impact. "In a ministry like MHA, which deals with day-to-day security and safety incidents, you see the effect of new systems and technologies very quickly," she explains. "My job allows me to make a meaningful difference in keeping Singapore safe and secure, while at the same time constantly challenging myself."

Dr Loh encourages those interested in solving security-related problems to consider MHA's Home Team Science and Technology Scholarship. "MHA offers attachments and internships with other agencies and tech companies, as well as overseas conferences to stay up-to-date. Young officers will also get to learn from mentors who are at the top of their domains and have handled major projects.

"If you have a thirst for analysis of scientific knowledge and a strong inclination towards hands-on work, this scholarship is the thing for you."

A*STAR National Science Scholarship (NSS) (BS-PhD)

CRITERIA:

- Excellent academic standing in the A levels (preferably with 11 AUs), polytechnic diploma (preferably with Merit) or equivalent qualifications
- Singaporean; those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore citizenship
- Keen interest in science and research

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Full tuition fees
- Monthly allowance
- Annual return airfare
- Pre-studies allowance
- Research attachment opportunities at A*Star Research Institutes

Further support for PhD studies will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of undergraduate studies and meeting NSS (PhD) requirements

BOND PERIOD:

- A compulsory one-year research attachment at an A*Star research institute between the BS and PhD studies
- Five years at an A*Star research institute upon completion of PhD studies

Terms and conditions apply.

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Besides performing X-ray duties, Ms Chooi is also undergoing training to specialise in MRI. PHOTO: TED CHEN

Every picture tells a story

A medical drama and an MOHH scholarship put senior radiographer Clara Chooi on her career path

BY JAC WOO

Ms Clara Chooi Chi Yuen is a big fan of Korean dramas. Not only did they inspire her to pick up the Korean language, they influenced her choice of career as well. Currently a senior radiographer in Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, Ms Chooi, 27, recalls: "During my Secondary 4 days, I watched the Korean medical drama, *New Heart*, and was fascinated by how the doctors could diagnose what was wrong with patients by looking at medical images." Eager to find out more about the field, she looked it up online and ended up enrolling in a Diploma in Diagnostic Radiography course in Nanyang Polytechnic in 2011. In her final year in 2014, she thought of taking a degree-conversion programme in an overseas university after graduation but was worried it would be expensive. "My friend then told me about the Healthcare Merit Award scholarship offered by MOH Holdings (MOHH) that could help to cover the costs," she says.

With the scholarship, Ms Chooi pursued a Bachelor of Science (Diagnostic Radiography) offered by the Singapore Institute of Technology and Trinity College of Dublin. The joint degree is conducted in Singapore and offers overseas clinical placement and lessons during the final term. The scholarship covered the cost of Ms Chooi's degree programme and part of the cost of her attachment in Dublin, Ireland. "The attachment opened my eyes to different radiology practices in other countries," says Ms Chooi, who graduated in 2015. **Image of health** In her current role, she performs general X-ray duties and assists in theatre cases that require X-ray imaging during operations. She is also undergoing on-the-job training to specialise in MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). Doctors often order MRI brain scans in an in-patient setting to query if the patient has had a stroke or not, or to check for lesions in the brain that might have caused the patient's symptoms or

behavioural changes, she explains. Important aspects of her job include the safety of patients and staff, and the quality of images obtained. "The MRI room has a very strong magnet that is used to produce the images, so it is very important to ensure that anyone entering the room is free of metallic items as they might be forcefully attracted to the magnet and get injured. "By screening patients and staff who enter the area, we can ensure that they will not have any unnecessary injuries," she explains. Ms Chooi hopes to become more knowledgeable in MRI so that she can guide students or staff who are keen to learn the medical technique. And to people who are interested in a radiography career, she advises researching more about the job and going to career fairs to get some first-hand information from radiographers who might be there. "Also try to find job-shadowing opportunities so you can see if it is something that you would like to do, because radiography is more than just pressing a button," she says.

HEALTHCARE MERIT AWARD/HEALTHCARE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

- CRITERIA:**
- Singapore citizen or permanent resident who is willing to take up Singapore citizenship
 - Good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities
 - Passion for serving in the public healthcare sector
 - Good communication skills
 - Outstanding A level results (offered at least 10 academic units), diploma with merit/distinction or equivalent qualifications

- VALUE OF AWARD:**
- Tuition and compulsory fees
 - Monthly allowance
 - Pre-study allowance
 - Sponsorship for approved developmental programmes
 - Commencement award
 - Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent)

- BOND PERIOD:**
- Four years (local)
 - Six years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.



PHOTO: TED CHEN

Helping others get back on their feet

After physiotherapy changed his life, physiotherapist Kenneth Goh now does the same for others

BY BRYANT CHAN

Mr Kenneth Goh's reason for becoming a physiotherapist might be a little more personal than most. When he was 19, he tore his anterior cruciate ligament after an accident while serving national service. As a result, he had to undergo reconstructive surgery, and subsequently, physiotherapy sessions. His personal rehabilitation process marked his first encounter with physiotherapy. As he attended his regular sessions, he witnessed how the physiotherapists helped their patients get back on their feet, climb stairs and play sports. Inspired by their dedication, patience, enthusiasm and compassion, he realised that he wanted to be part of this community. "It seemed like a win-win situation," says Mr Goh. "These people were earning a living while impacting people's lives positively." The 28-year-old's passion made him a frontrunner for the Ministry of Health Holdings (MOHH) Health Science Overseas Scholarship (now the Healthcare Merit Award), which saw him heading to the University of Queensland for a four-year Bachelor in Physiotherapy (Honours).

One-of-a-kind experience Apart from being one of the top schools in a country already known for its stellar standards of health science education, the University's prestigious physiotherapy programme also made it the obvious choice for Mr Goh. There, he was exposed to a number of unique challenges. One of his placements in Brisbane had him placed in rural areas, where he attended to several quad biking-related injuries. Another training placement had him making house visits to patients who were not mobile enough to go down to treatment centres. On top of these educational experiences, Mr Goh also enjoyed the autonomy of living abroad, exploring Brisbane and beyond while taking road trips with his friends. "The friendships I forged in Queensland are among the strongest I've had, something that I treasure a lot," he says. **Pieces of a puzzle** After returning to Singapore, Mr Goh went through several rotations in the orthopaedic, pulmonary and geriatric departments at Singapore General Hospital. But he eventually returned to the department that had first inspired him to take up the profession — musculoskeletal physiotherapy — which intrigues him the most out of all the other

areas of physiotherapy. He likens the process of looking into a patient's symptoms to a detective investigating a crime scene. "Patients with the same condition present with a different set of beliefs, stressors in life, expectations, goals and comorbidities," says Mr Goh. "This makes my job both interesting and challenging." But the biggest challenge is getting patients to adhere to their treatment plan. They often become frustrated with their lack of perceived progress and opt to stop treatment before they are fully recovered, which can be detrimental in the long run. Still, some moments make his efforts worthwhile. One of his fondest memories on the job so far was having a patient pass him a handwritten note, saying that she was cancelling her next appointment, and all subsequent sessions. His heart sank when he heard that, he recalls, as he thought that she had given up. But when he unfolded the note and read it, he discovered that she was doing so because she could finally walk again, unfettered by pain. "It's very rewarding knowing that my job knowledge has helped my patients to regain their function and independence," he says, smiling.

HEALTHCARE MERIT AWARD/HEALTHCARE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

- CRITERIA:**
- Singapore citizen or permanent resident who is willing to take up Singapore citizenship
 - Good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities
 - Passion for serving in the public healthcare sector
 - Good communication skills
 - Outstanding A level results (offered at least 10 academic units), diploma with merit/distinction or equivalent qualifications

- VALUE OF AWARD:**
- Tuition and compulsory fees
 - Monthly allowance
 - Pre-study allowance
 - Sponsorship for approved developmental programmes
 - Commencement award
 - Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent)

- BOND PERIOD:**
- Four years (local)
 - Six years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

A better place to live in

Mr Dinesh Naidu plays a role in helping Singapore share the skills in planning more sustainable and resilient cities with the world

BY LUKE TAN

Mr Dinesh Naidu will never forget the night he had a tense conversation through a locked door — with a frying pan in his hand.

The caller in question was “a neighbour with mental health issues” in the corridor outside his studio apartment, screaming and sobbing. Worried both for the man and himself, Mr Naidu kept the door locked till the police arrived.

This happened while he was on an exchange programme at Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the United States last year.

“It is an exceptionally beautiful, wealthy and socially progressive city,” he says, but this incident, along with others such as the arrest of a Harvard student who was naked and allegedly high on drugs in the street, shaped his thinking about urban governance and resilience.

“I became more alert and aware of my surroundings, which in turn helped me to notice and even enjoy the city more.”

Life begins in the middle

Mr Naidu's exchange programme was part of a master's degree in public management at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, which he completed last year under the MND (Ministry of National Development) EDGE Scholarship.

It offered a mid-career sabbatical for the 44-year-old, who had worked as a researcher, writer and civil-society organiser for over a decade before joining the MND's Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) in January 2011.



Mr Naidu believes that all cities have to become more sustainable and resilient even if they already enjoy quality of life and environment. PHOTO: TED CHEN

He jumped at the chance to gain new skills, knowledge and perspectives before “returning to new and challenging work in Singapore.”

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to read and listen widely and deeply, to be challenged intellectually and emotionally, to share my thoughts and experiences, and to connect with very interesting people from around the world,” he says.

Sharing knowledge, bringing change

Mr Naidu's enduring interest in Singapore's built environment makes him a perfect fit for the CLC, which develops and shares practical knowledge on urban planning, development and governance.

As deputy director of knowledge platforms, he helps distil this knowledge for publications and events such as the World Cities Summit, which helps benefit Singapore through exchanges with foreign city leaders.

He also hopes to help enrich urban planning and policy discourse. Recalling his experiences in Cambridge, he says: “While Singapore might provide many things very safely and seamlessly, it may also encourage us to be more passive as citizens.”

“In comparison, after the arrest of the student in Cambridge, members of the local student community organised and engaged with the authorities and media. This capacity to self-organise is one sign of social resilience,” he adds.

When asked how liveable Singapore is, he says: “When it comes to quality of life and environment, Singapore does very well — but I think all cities, including ours, have to become more sustainable and resilient.”

Adapting for success

Mr Naidu believes that resilient people are also adaptable.

“When editing our magazine, interviews or articles sometimes fall through at the last minute, but in the process of solving the problem, we have produced some of our best issues.”

“While we may aim for certain ideals at the start of a project, there comes a time when we should not sweat the small stuff. The challenge is to make changes on the fly while meeting larger objectives,” he says.

“The source of all problems — and the solution to all problems — lies within us.”

MND EDGE Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up Singapore citizenship
- A levels, polytechnic diploma (with merit) or equivalent qualifications e.g. International Baccalaureate or high school diploma
- Good CCA records
- Strong leadership qualities and interest in a public service career
- Self-motivated and a good team player

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition fees and other compulsory fees
- Maintenance, book and hostel allowances
- Sponsorship for approved student exchange programmes
- Internship attachment with MND

BOND PERIOD

- Four years (Local)
- Six years (Overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.



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PHOTO: TED CHEN

The Singapore University of Technology and Design is honing Mr Lee Jia Juen's dual interests for product design and entrepreneurship

BY SYAHIDAH ZAINAL

A supportive environment during his design and technology classes in secondary school shaped Mr Lee Jia Juen's (above) penchant for building things and coming up with creative solutions.

Spurred on by his teacher, Mr Lee and his classmates participated in several external design-based and entrepreneurship competitions.

That spark led him to enrol in the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). He was attracted to its style of pedagogy, as well as its design-based and hands-on curriculum.

Mr Lee, who is currently pursuing a degree in engineering product development, says: “SUTD's engineering curriculum focuses on the application of concepts to solve real-world problems.”

He got a taste of that from the

very beginning — in his first year, he built a plastic bag dispenser that charges customers when they take too many plastic bags for their purchases.

More recently, he built a tabletop greenhouse that provides a controlled environment to grow herbs for culinary use.

Big dreams

The 22-year-old sophomore is part of the pioneer batch of the SUTD Technology Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP), and is also a recipient of the STEP Scholarship, offered to outstanding students within the programme.

As someone with entrepreneurial dreams, Mr Lee appreciates how STEP provides him with a balance between acquiring technical skills and getting business exposure.

Last year, for example, he attended the eight-week Value-added Innovation Enterprise (VIEW) programme at TU Berlin (Technical University of Berlin), a research university and one of the most prestigious education institutions in Europe. There, he received a crash course on what it takes to be an entrepreneur from those involved in the Berlin start-up scene.

“I developed a business model which I pitched to a group of venture capitalists. I also had the chance to meet a new entrepreneur each day and gained valuable insights on starting a business.”

His experience in Berlin led him to sign up as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the Introduction to Design Course when he returned to SUTD.

Now, he is looking forward to spending a fully-funded semester each in both Silicon Valley in the US and Hangzhou, China.

“The experience will allow me to learn the best of East and West so that I can have a well-rounded and balanced view of global business practices and trends,” says Mr Lee.

SUTD Technology Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Singapore citizen
- Applying for admission to STEP
- Have a passion for technology, design and entrepreneurship
- Outstanding A levels, local polytechnic diploma, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Subsidised tuition fees (after Tuition Grant) for the duration of the bachelor's degree and master's degree courses at SUTD up to 10 terms
- Full study-related allowances for the one year overseas in the USA and China, including airfare, accommodation, visa fees and travel insurance

BOND PERIOD:

- Bond-free

Terms and conditions apply.

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



Each day, Mr Lim Min Zhang challenges himself so he can get Singaporeans the news that matters. PHOTO: TED CHEN

SPH Journalism Scholarship

- Undergraduate Scholarship (Local/Overseas)
- Mid-Term Scholarship (Local/Overseas)

CRITERIA:

- A greatly inquisitive mind, a passion to bring the truth to the forefront and an aptitude to bring news to life
- Outstanding academic profiles
- Impressive record of co-curricular activities
- Strong language skills (English, Chinese, Malay or Tamil)

VALUE OF AWARD:

- Tuition and compulsory fees
- Maintenance allowance
- Pre-studies allowance
- Return air-ticket (for overseas sponsorship)

BOND PERIOD:

- Depending on the value of the scholarship

Terms and conditions apply.

Making the headlines

Journalist Lim Min Zhang enjoys the challenge of unearthing news that matters

BY LUKE TAN

By Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) journalist Lim Min Zhang's own admission, he used to be "an introvert and a shy person".

"I used to lack confidence when talking to people, especially strangers and people of rank and authority," he reveals.

But these days, putting himself out there and chasing down news leads is all in a day's work for the 27-year-old recipient of the SPH Journalism Scholarship (Local).

"Being a reporter requires me to talk to political office holders as well as strangers on the street on a regular basis. Therefore I have to force myself out of my comfort zone in order to do my job well," he says.

Covering his beat

Since joining SPH full-time in 2017, Mr Lim, who is on the defence beat, has covered breaking stories on major defence announcements and speeches from the Ministry of Defence, the deaths of full-time national servicemen, and visits by foreign militaries.

A recent career highlight was in November last year when he covered the Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) Exercise Wallaby — the army's largest overseas exercise every year — in the vast Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland, Australia.

During the eight-day overseas assignment, the young journalist's skills were put to the ultimate test — he was expected to produce almost one story each day, and write quickly and accurately.

He says: "It was my first time at the exercise, and it was a valuable experience because I got to see and learn about the actual conditions and terrain there where our SAF soldiers train."

On the ground reporting

And in a time of rife fake news and disruption in the media industry, Mr Lim continues to firmly believe in the role of the press in helping to generate public discussion on important topics.

Indeed, his belief in the power of journalism was validated when he was a new intern reporter with SPH in 2013, and investigated a family's complaint that their 13-year-old son's grave in Choa Chu Kang Christian Cemetery got flooded during heavy rain.

During the burial, water up to 30cm

deep had to be drained from the empty crypt, and the family was worried that water had again entered the grave, suspecting that the lid was not watertight.

He spent an entire weekend meeting the family, cycling around different cemeteries, and talking to workers to find out whether waterlogged graves were a widespread problem. One tombstone contractor he spoke to said that the flooding had been occurring intermittently since 2007, though he could not pin down the exact cause.

Later, even though the National Environment Agency concluded that there was no cause for concern and added that new and wider drains had been constructed in an effort to improve drainage at the cemetery, Mr Lim remains proud of the story.

"It provided some form of reassurance to the family that the issue was being looked into," he says.

Being a reporter requires me to talk to political office holders as well as strangers on the street on a regular basis. Therefore I have to force myself out of my comfort zone in order to do my job well.

LIM MIN ZHANG
journalist
Singapore Press Holdings

Wind beneath his wings

For all of these opportunities to make the headlines and more, Mr Lim, who holds a Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences with honours (distinction) from the National University of Singapore, is grateful for his SPH scholarship.

Apart from the monetary benefits, such as coverage of his tuition fees and providing an allowance while he was studying in university, the scholarship also offered chances to try out with different desks and papers within SPH, such as The New Paper and The Straits Times' Life section, while on internship.

He particularly appreciates the stints he did with The Straits Times Newsdesk, which were instrumental in further fuelling his passion for the field, as well as honing his journalistic skills.

"I enjoyed it thoroughly, and wanted to emulate the senior journalists' knowledge, analysis of news events and writing ability," he says.

And while determination, hard work and staying focused on his career path have helped him get to where he is now, he also credits the scholarship with providing the wind beneath his wings, adding: "The SPH scholarship helped me to be financially independent, and not have to worry about repaying student loans — or my parents. It also allowed me to focus on my studies and self-improvement while in university."

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GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

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ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH (A*STAR)			
A*STAR Undergraduate Scholarship (AUS)	• Biomedical Sciences • Physical Sciences & Engineering Nanyang Technological University (NTU) National University of Singapore (NUS) including the Yale-NUS College Singapore Management University (School of Information Systems) (SMU) Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)	Successful applicants will be provided with financial support* for the duration of their undergraduate studies covering: • Tuition fees • Hostel fees • Monthly allowance • Research attachment opportunities at A*STAR Research Institutes • One overseas exchange programme during their undergraduate studies (up to 6 months) Mid-term AUS awardees will be offered the same terms of support as the direct AUS scholars from the point of the award, without retrospective payment. <i>*Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR from time to time</i> Bond Duration: AUS scholars are required to complete a PhD programme in Science or Engineering disciplines after the completion of their undergraduate studies. AUS scholars may apply for the National Science Scholarship, A*STAR Graduate Scholarship or other scholarships in their final year of undergraduate studies.	• Should have attained excellent academic results • Applicants must be Singaporean. Those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore Citizenship. • Have keen interest in science and research Applicants in their 2nd Year of undergraduate studies and above must have obtained Singapore citizenship and should have: • Completed at least 2 terms of studies with graded results • Obtained a term CAP/GPA and CAP/cumulative GPA of at least 4.50 in the latest academic term/ year <i>The above eligibility criteria are not exhaustive. A*STAR may include additional selection criteria based on prevailing scholarship policies. These policies may be amended from time to time without notice. Please refer to www.a-star.edu.sg for more detailed information.</i>
National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD)	• Biomedical Sciences • Physical Sciences & Engineering Top global universities	The National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD) supports up to 8 years of undergraduate and PhD studies. Successful NSS (BS) applicants will be given support* for their undergraduate studies, comprising: • Full tuition fees • Monthly allowance • Annual return airfare • Pre-studies allowance • Research attachment opportunities at A*STAR Research Institutes Further support for PhD studies will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of undergraduate studies and meeting NSS (PhD) requirements (e.g. 1-year research attachment at an A*STAR Research Institute). <i>*Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR from time to time</i> Bond Duration: NSS (BS) awardees are required to fulfill a 6-year service commitment comprising: • A compulsory 1-year research attachment at an A*STAR research institute between the BS and PhD studies • 5 years at an A*STAR research institute upon completion of PhD studies	• Should have attained excellent academic results • Applicants must be Singaporean. Those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore Citizenship. • Have keen interest in science and research <i>The above eligibility criteria are not exhaustive. A*STAR may include additional selection criteria based on prevailing scholarship policies. These policies may be amended from time to time without notice. Please refer to www.a-star.edu.sg for more detailed information.</i>
A*STAR Graduate Scholarship (AGS)	• Biomedical Sciences • Physical Sciences & Engineering Duke-NUS Nanyang Technological University (NTU) National University of Singapore (NUS) including the Yale-NUS College Singapore Management University (School of Information Systems) (SMU) Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)	Successful applicants will be given support* for up to 4 years of academic pursuit. They will receive: • Full tuition fees • Monthly sustenance allowance, inclusive of CPF contribution (where applicable) Other allowances including: • Book allowance • Computer allowance • Conference allowance • Thesis allowance • Support for up to 12 months of overseas attachment AGS scholars are eligible for up to 2 years of post-doctoral fellowship under AGS (PDF). <i>*Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR from time to time</i> Bond Duration: Singaporeans (at point of award): No service commitment Non-Singaporeans (at point of award): 2 years in a Singapore-based organisation preferably in Biomedical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering AGS awardees who are subsequently awarded the AGS (PDF) for overseas post-doctoral training: 3 years	• Applicants must be Singaporean. Those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore Citizenship. • Satisfy criteria for and seek admission to PhD programme in an autonomous university • Have obtained at least a 2nd Upper Class Honours Degree or equivalent in relevant disciplines • Have strong interest in a research career <i>The above eligibility criteria are not exhaustive. A*STAR may include additional selection criteria based on prevailing scholarship policies. These policies may be amended from time to time without notice. Please refer to www.a-star.edu.sg for a more detailed information.</i>
A*STAR Computing and Information Science (ACIS) Scholarship	Computing and Information Science Nanyang Technological University (NTU) National University of Singapore Singapore Management University (SMU) Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)	Successful Applicants will be given support* for up to 4 years of academic pursuit. They will receive: • Full tuition fees • Monthly sustenance allowance and CPF contribution (where applicable) based on the prevailing employer's contribution rate • Support for up to 12 months of overseas attachment Other allowances including: • Book allowance • Computer allowance • Conference allowance • Miscellaneous allowance • Thesis allowance <i>*Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR from time to time</i> Bond Duration: Singaporeans (at the point of award): No service commitment. Non-Singaporeans (at the point of award): 2-year service in Singapore-based companies[^] without commitment to any specific organization. The area of work should preferably be in CIS disciplines. [^] Singapore-based companies refer to local companies and international companies that have a base in Singapore and which is registered with the Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA).	• Applicants must be Singaporean. Those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore Citizenship • Satisfy the criteria for and gain admission to a PhD programme* in one of the following schools: • NTU School of Computer Science and Engineering • NUS School of Computing • SMU School of Information Systems • SUTD Information Systems Technology and Design Pillar • Have obtained at least a 2nd Upper Class Honours Degree or equivalent in relevant disciplines • Have strong interest to pursue a CIS research career in industry R&D labs, technology enterprises, spin-off companies and/or academia <i>The above eligibility criteria are not exhaustive. A*STAR may include additional selection criteria based on prevailing scholarship policies. These policies may be amended from time to time without notice. Please refer to www.a-star.edu.sg for a more detailed information.</i>
National Science Scholarship (PhD)	• Biomedical Sciences • Physical Sciences & Engineering Top global universities	Successful applicants will be given support for up to five years of PhD studies comprising*: • Full tuition fees • Monthly sustenance allowance, inclusive of CPF contribution (where applicable) • Monthly overseas living allowance • Annual return airfare Other allowances including: • Conference allowance • Thesis allowance • Book allowance • Computer allowance • Warm clothing and settling-in allowance <i>*Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR from time to time</i> Bond Duration: 4 years	• Applicants must be Singaporean. Those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore Citizenship • Have strong interest in a research career • Have strong academic undergraduate results (preferably 1st Class Honours Degree or equivalent) in relevant disciplines • Obtain good GRE scores • Have applied or be applying for a PhD programme at a top global university <i>The above eligibility criteria are not exhaustive. A*STAR may include additional selection criteria based on prevailing scholarship policies. These policies may be amended from time to time without notice. Please refer to www.a-star.edu.sg for a more detailed information."</i>
AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (AVA)			
AVA Undergraduate Scholarship	• Agricultural Sciences • Aquaculture • Biological Sciences • Chemistry • Food Science/ Food Technology • Life Sciences • Microbiology • Other related disciplines Local universities and approved overseas universities	• Tuition fees and other compulsory fees • Monthly maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance (One-time) • Return airfare (For overseas award) Bond Duration: • Local university: 4 years upon completion of studies • Overseas university: 6 years upon completion of studies	• Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents (SPRs) are required to take up Singapore Citizenship) • Strong academic and CCA records • Applicants for mid-term scholarship should also have excellent university results
AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE (AGO)			
AGO Auditing Service Scholarship	• Accountancy National University of Singapore; Nanyang Technological University & Singapore Management University Singapore	The scholarship will cover tuition and other compulsory fees, maintenance allowance, hostel allowance, pre-studies allowance and overseas student exchange expenses.	1) Singapore Citizen or Permanent Residence intending to take up Singapore Citizenship 2) Demonstrated strong leadership qualities with active participation in Co-Curricular Activities (CCA). Undergraduate Scholarship: Good GCE 'A' level results (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent Mid-Term Scholarship: Open to outstanding undergraduates who are currently pursuing an Accountancy Degree at the local universities listed and have completed at least one semester of undergraduates studies. Applicants should be on track for at least a Second Upper Class Honours.
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY (BCA)			
BCA Undergraduate Scholarship (Overseas / Local / Mid-Term)	• Architecture • Architecture & Sustainable Design • Civil Engineering • Coastal Engineering • Economics • Electrical Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Project & Facilities Management • Smart-City Management & Technology • Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Building Services) • Structural Engineering Universities: Local Universities and Reputable Overseas Universities Country of Study: Singapore & Overseas Countries (e.g. UK, USA)	Overseas Scholarship • Tuition fees and other approved charges • Allowance (maintenance, computer, warm clothing, settling-in) • One return Economy-Class airfare • One return Economy-Class airfare (for industrial attachment at BCA) • Sponsorship for summer school programme Local Scholarship • Tuition and compulsory fees • Allowance (maintenance, computer) • Sponsorship for student exchange programme Mid-Term Scholarship • Tuition and compulsory fees • Allowance (maintenance, computer) • Sponsorship for student exchange programme • Reimbursement of tuition fees and maintenance allowance for completed years of study	• Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents • Excellent GCE 'O' and 'A' Level / IB / IP Results • Excellent Diploma Results (Polytechnic Students) • Excellent University Results (Undergraduates) • Excellent CCA Records
iBuildSG Undergraduate Scholarship / Sponsorship	• Architecture • Civil Engineering • Construction Management • Electrical Engineering • Environmental Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Project & Facilities Management • Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Building Services) • Real Estate Universities: NUS, NTU, SIT, SUTD, and undergraduate courses conducted by the BCA Academy (BCAA) Country of Study: Singapore	Undergraduate Scholarship • Minimum S\$18,000 per year for Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents • Minimum S\$14,000 per year for all other nationalities in relevant engineering courses Undergraduate Sponsorship • Minimum S\$10,000 per year for Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents	To be eligible for the scholarship or sponsorship, you must: • Be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident • Foreigners taking relevant engineering courses may also apply for the scholarship but are not eligible for sponsorship • Be a GCE 'A' level, Polytechnic or BCA Academy graduate or NUS, NTU, SIT, SUTD or BCA Academy undergraduate • Have outstanding academic results • Have excellent CCA records Male applicants must have completed or be exempted from full-time National Service (NS). ORD personnel accepted for admission in 2019 can also apply.
iBuildSG Diploma Scholarship / Sponsorship	• Architecture • Architecture (Technology) • Civil Engineering with Business • Clean Energy • Clean Energy Management • Construction Engineering • Digital Engineering • Design (Interior & Landscape) • Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Electrical Engineering & Clean Energy • Electrical Engineering • Electrical Engineering with Eco-Design • Energy Systems and Management • Environment Design • Environmental & Water Technology • Facilities Management • Green Building & Sustainability • Green Building Energy Management • Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management • Integrated Events & Project Management • Integrated Facility Management • Interior Architecture & Design • Interior Design • Landscape Architecture • Mechanical Engineering • Mechanical Engineering (Green Building Technology) • Quantity Surveying • Real Estate Business • Space & Interior Design • Spatial Design • Sustainable Architectural Design • Sustainable Urban Design & Engineering Polytechnics: NP, NYP, RP, SP, TP and diploma courses conducted by the BCA Academy (BCAA) Country of Study: Singapore	Diploma Scholarship • Minimum S\$15,000 per year for Singapore Citizens, Singapore Permanent Residents and other nationalities Diploma Sponsorship • Minimum S\$7,000 per year for Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents	To be eligible for the scholarship or sponsorship, you must: • Be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident • Foreigners may apply for the scholarship but are not eligible for sponsorship • Be a GCE 'O' level or GCE 'N' level or ITE graduate, or student pursuing in tenable diploma courses at NP, NYP, RP, TP, SP and BCA Academy • Have outstanding academic results • Have excellent CCA records
CHANGI AIRPORT GROUP (CAG)			
Changi Airport Group Undergraduate Scholarship	All disciplines except Medicine and Dentistry	Local: • All tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly maintenance allowance • Pre-Studies allowance, including settling-in and computer allowance (one-off) • Hostel fees • Opportunities for sponsorship of student exchange or summer programmes • Postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management • Internships with the diverse business areas within Changi Airport Group Overseas: • All tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly maintenance allowance (including accommodation) • Pre-Studies allowance, including warm clothing, settling-in and computer allowance (one-off) • Return economy airfare • Opportunities for sponsorship of student exchange or summer programmes • Postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management • Internships with the diverse business areas within Changi Airport Group Bond Duration: • Local: 3 years • Overseas: 5 years	• Excellent 'A' Level results or equivalent (including International Baccalaureate and NUS High Diploma) • Outstanding CCA/NS records or community activities and demonstrating strong leadership qualities • Passion to make a difference in CAG through the diverse business areas of managing and operating Changi Airport (e.g. airport operations, retail management, engineering, business development etc.), as well as developing and managing airports overseas
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (CAAS)			
CAAS Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship	All disciplines of study except Medicine and Dentistry	• Tuition and compulsory fees • Allowance (covering pre-studies, computer and maintenance) Additional sponsorships will be given for student exchange and summer studies programme • Full postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management • Compulsory internships are provided to allow scholars to gain insights into the civil aviation industry • Return airfares for Overseas Scholars returning for internships with CAAS Bond Duration: 6 years <i>Note: Bond period will be pro-rated for first, second and third year university undergraduate applicants</i>	• Applicants must be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident who is willing to take up Singapore Citizenship • Excellent GCE 'A' Level results or equivalent, including International Baccalaureate, NUS High Diploma and Polytechnic (Diploma with Merit); university results • Outstanding CCA records and proven leadership and high achiever qualities • Current undergraduates with excellent results, on track to graduate with at least Second-Upper Class Honours or equivalent will also be considered



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GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS		For more information, log on to www.scholarschoice.com.sg	
ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
CAAS Local Undergraduate Scholarship	All disciplines of study except Medicine and Dentistry Note: Scholars may pursue a Law degree but will not be employed as practising lawyers during their service with CAAS NUS, NTU, SMU, SUTD, SUSS and SIT leading to a good Honours degree	- Tuition and compulsory fees - Allowance (covering computer and maintenance) - Additional sponsorships will be given for student exchange and summer studies programme - Full postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management - Compulsory internships are provided to allow scholars to gain insights into the civil aviation industry Bond Duration: 4 years <i>Note: Bond period will be pro-rated for first, second and third year university undergraduate applicants</i>	- Applicants must be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident who is willing to take up Singapore Citizenship - Excellent GCE 'A' Level results or equivalent, including International Baccalaureate, NUS High Diploma and Polytechnic (Diploma with Merit); university results - Outstanding CCA records and proven leadership and high achiever qualities - Current undergraduates with excellent results, on track to graduate with at least Second-Upper Class Honours or equivalent will also be considered
CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND BOARD (CPF)			
CPF Board Full-Term Local Undergraduate Scholarship	All undergraduate courses except Medicine and Dentistry and Pharmacy at any Singapore's local universities (NUS, NTU, SUTD, SMU)	Value of Award - All approved tuition and compulsory fees, including overseas exchange programme where relevant - Pre-settling Allowance - Competitive monthly allowance (inclusive of hostel fee if applicable) - Engaging internship opportunities - Exposure to meaningful work in CPF Board Bond Obligation 1 year of bond period for every year of sponsorship	Eligibility for CPF Board Full-Term Local Undergraduate Scholarship - Singapore Citizens or PRs on the date of application - Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma or IB Diploma - Good track record and active participation in CCAs - Demonstrate strong leadership and interpersonal skills - Strong desire for a meaningful career with CPF Board Eligibility for CPF Board Mid-Term Local Undergraduate Scholarship - Singapore Citizens or PRs on the date of application - Current undergraduates with excellent results, on track to graduate with at least Second-Upper Class Honours or equivalent - Have completed at least 1 academic semester in local university and have not embarked on final year year of study at point of application - Good track record and active participation in CCAs - Demonstrate strong leadership and interpersonal skills - Strong desire for a meaningful career with CPF Board
CPF Board Mid-Term Local Undergraduate Scholarship			
ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE			
Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship (Overseas)	Overseas: Top universities in China, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, US and UK. Local: NUS • NTU • SMU • SUTD • SIT	- Full tuition and compulsory fees • Medical / health insurance (where required by university) - Pre-studies allowance • Monthly maintenance allowance - Travel allowances (where applicable) - Sponsorship for approved student exchange programme • Internship opportunities Bond Duration: - Overseas (US & UK): 5 years - Overseas (China, France, Germany, Japan & Korea): 4 years - Local: 2 years	- Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents - Excellent academic results for GCE 'A' Levels, International Baccalaureate, NUS High School Diploma or Polytechnic Diploma with Merit - Good track record in CCAs - Keen sense for global business and international trade - Interest in foreign languages and cultures
Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship (Local)	All undergraduate courses except Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Architecture, Music and Law.		
Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship (Mid-term)			
GIC PRIVATE LIMITED			
GIC Full-Term Scholarship	Our scholarship provides you the freedom to choose from a diverse range of courses including, but not limited to, Accountancy, Economics, Engineering, Sciences, Mathematics and Liberal Arts.	- Return airfare (for overseas studies) • Tuition and other related fees and allowances - Sponsorship of a range of learning opportunities (including but not limited to): Exchange Programme / Study Abroad Programme / Summer School / Finance-related seminars / Third language study (subject to approval) - Sponsorship of Master's degree (subject to approval) - Internship during penultimate year of undergraduate studies Bond Duration: - Local: 3 years - Overseas: 4 years (Non-English speaking countries); 5 years (UK/US)	- Good academic results in GCE 'A' Level or equivalent examinations (including International Baccalaureate and NUS High Diploma) - Good CCA records - Candidates with strong critical thinking, creativity and leadership qualities. - Students of all nationalities are welcome to apply. Applicable to Pre-Tertiary students who are about to embark on their undergraduate studies.
GIC Mid-Term Scholarship	Our scholarship provides you the freedom to choose from a diverse range of courses including, but not limited to, Accountancy, Economics, Engineering, Sciences, Mathematics and Liberal Arts.	- Return airfare (for overseas studies) - Tuition and other related fees and allowances - Sponsorship of a range of learning opportunities (including but not limited to): Exchange Programme / Study Abroad Programme / Summer School / Finance-related seminars / Third language study (subject to approval) - Sponsorship of Master's degree (subject to approval) - Shortlisted candidates will have to undergo a 10-week internship programme, after which you may be awarded a full sponsorship for you remaining years of undergraduate study and your Master's degree. Bond Duration: Sponsorship commences only from the time the scholarship is awarded. There is no back payment of fees accrued from earlier undergraduate years. GIC will sponsor up to 2 years of undergraduate studies, and 1 year of post-graduate studies For every sponsored year of study, the service duration is: 1 year (at a local university) 1.5 years (at an overseas university, regardless of location)	- Second Year and Penultimate Year students pursuing their undergraduate students with good academic results. - Good CCA records - Candidates with strong critical thinking, creativity and leadership qualities. - Students of all nationalities are welcome to apply.
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BOARD (HDB)			
HDB Undergraduate Scholarship - Overseas / Local - Mid-Term	Disciplines relevant to HDB including: - Architecture/ Landscape Architecture - Urban Planning - Engineering (Civil/ Electrical/ Mechanical) - Economics - Sociology/ Data Analytics/ Statistics - Building/ Real Estate - Computer Engineering/ Computer Science/ Information Systems - Communications & New Media - Accountancy - Reputable local or overseas universities	Value of Overseas Scholarship Award - Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance - Pre-studies allowance including warm clothing, computer and settling-in allowance - Return economy airfare - Vacation attachment with HDB (including return airfare for attachment) - Opportunity for sponsorship for approved student exchange programme Bond of Overseas Scholarship Award: 6 years Value of Local Scholarship Award - Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance - Pre-studies allowance including computer and settling-in allowance - Vacation attachment with HDB - Opportunity for sponsorship for approved student exchange programme Bond of Local Scholarship Award: 4 years For the HDB Mid-Term Scholarship, the bond duration will be commensurate with the remaining duration of study.	Singaporeans and Permanent Residents with excellent academic results and CCA records
HDB Specialist Scholarship - Local - Local Mid-Term	- Architecture / Landscape Architecture - Engineering (Civil/Mechanical/Electrical) - Computer Engineering / Computer Science/ Information Systems - Reputable local universities	An annual allowance of : - Architecture - \$17,000 • Engineering - \$16,500 - Computer Engineering / Computer Science/ Information Systems - \$16,500 Bond of Local Scholarship Award: 4 years For the HDB Mid-Term Specialist Scholarship, the bond duration will be commensurate with the remaining duration of study.	Singaporeans and Permanent Residents with very good academic results and CCA records

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Free to explore

An education at Yale-NUS opened up a world of possibilities for urban planner Timothy Chua

BY JOSHUA WONG

Film-maker, enquiring mind, gung-ho — these are just some words to describe Mr Timothy Chua, a member of Yale-NUS College's first graduating cohort.

The 27-year-old had a wide-ranging experience in university, from studying creative writing to working on a smart city tender proposal in China. A recipient of the Yale-NUS Faculty Scholarship, Mr Chua explored a smorgasbord of subjects before deciding to major in Urban Studies, which resulted in his current job as a planner with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

"My education at Yale-NUS let me explore my intellectual curiosity by studying fields like literature, history and science, which nurtured an appreciation of different ways of looking at the world," he says.

All-round education

As Mr Chua was initially unsure about what discipline he wanted to pursue, Yale-NUS' liberal arts curriculum — in which students take a combination of core modules and electives before choosing a major at the end of their second year — appealed to him.

When he attended his admissions interview, he was surprised to find that he enjoyed it.

"The interview felt like a meaningful conversation about issues that I was interested in. I felt the College's interest and sincerity in developing its students not only intellectually, but also professionally and socially," he says.

In April 2013, he was elated when he was awarded not just a place at Yale-NUS, but the Yale-NUS Faculty Scholarship too. All applicants to Yale-NUS are automatically considered for this scholarship, which is merit-based and bond-free.



PHOTO: TED CHEN

The freedom to explore different subjects has given me new perspectives that inform many facets of my life.

MR TIMOTHY CHUA
planner
URA

Expanding his horizons

Mr Chua's boundless curiosity led him to study a wide variety of courses during his time in university, including history, computer science and creative writing.

"I appreciated that grades were not a major concern for most students in my batch. Rather, I felt that I could pursue my intellectual interests without worrying about how they would affect my grades," he shares.

Mr Chua pursued learning opportunities not only within, but also beyond the classroom.

During his time at Yale-NUS, he completed multiple internships, including one with the URA in 2015 and with IBM China in 2016. During the latter, he contributed to a smart city tender proposal for a new growth area in southern China.

These internships confirmed his budding interest in urban studies, which ultimately led to his decision to major in it and to work at the URA after graduation.

Vibrant college life

But all work and no play makes for a dull life — and Mr Chua's university life was far from that.

In 2013, he and a group of friends decided to enter a film-making contest, even though most of them had no prior experience with the process. Although they did not win, the experience was hugely enjoyable, and led to them forming Yale-NUS' first film-making club, with Mr Chua as its president.

He continued to make and collaborate on short films throughout his time at university, one of which was featured at the Guam International Film Festival in 2015.

Throughout it all, his insatiable curiosity and can-do spirit has stood him in good stead.

He says: "I am immensely grateful for my time at Yale-NUS. The freedom to explore different subjects, and to pursue my own interests, has broadened my intellectual horizons and given me new perspectives that inform many facets of my life."

Yale-NUS Faculty Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Merit-based; open to applicants of all nationalities

VALUE OF AWARD:

- \$20,000 per year for four years

BOND PERIOD:

- None

Terms and conditions apply.



PHOTO: LIN ZHAOWEI

It is great to see government organisations such as PUB embracing new technologies to supply good water so that Singapore and its people will never go thirsty.

MR IVAN ONG
electrical and electronic engineer
SMART PUB Program Office
PUB

Making every drop count

Mr Ivan Ong wants to hone his expertise in fields like artificial intelligence to enhance productivity at PUB

As an electrical and electronic engineer at national water agency PUB, Ivan Ong is constantly at the cutting edge of the technological frontier.

The 26-year old recipient of the National Environment and Water (NEW) Scholarship shares more about his scholarship experience and current role:

Why did you sign up for the scholarship?

During my first year in junior college in 2010, I did an internship at PUB. I was attached to the Water Supply Network department and conducted market research on novel leak detection technologies.

I enjoyed my internship, so I decided to apply for the NEW Scholarship. My parents also encouraged me to take up the scholarship when it was offered to me.

What, in particular, did you enjoy about your university education?

I completed my undergraduate and master's degrees at Imperial College London in 2017, after which I returned to Singapore to begin work at the SMART PUB Program Office.

I really enjoyed the chance to study under and work with the brightest minds from all over the world. For example, the lecturer who taught my module in Machine Learning is now working at DeepMind, an artificial intelligence (AI) company owned by Google.

Many of my peers have also gone on to do PhDs in cutting-edge fields such as AI and Advanced Signal Processing. It was fascinating to work,

study and play alongside the future technology leaders of the world.

Outside of class, I developed an interest in the performing arts. I watched world-class plays, musicals, and ballet and opera performances, and joined the college choir.

What exciting projects are you involved in now?

The SMART PUB Program Office is currently made up of eight officers. We meet various technology companies, ranging from established multinational corporations to local startups, to conduct trial runs and proof-of-concept prototyping.

I am currently developing an AI-enabled drone for site inspection and security in partnership with external companies.

There is quite a vibrant startup scene in Singapore in the area of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Part of my job involves meeting these companies to understand what they have to offer, and whether they can meet PUB's needs.

If implemented well, UAV technology can enhance productivity and safety in our operations.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

Given the speed of progress in fields such as AI and big data analytics, there is much to be optimistic about.

Personally, I hope to hone my technical expertise in such areas and contribute as much as I can.

BY JOSHUA WONG

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information, log on to www.scholarschoice.com.sg

ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
INLAND REVENUE AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (IRAS)			
IRAS Overseas/Merit Undergraduate Scholarship	• Accountancy • Business • Economics • Information Technology • Real Estate • Statistics	Scholarship for local course cover • Tuition and related compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance (inclusive of hostel allowance and book allowance) • Computer allowance • Pre-studies allowance • Miscellaneous allowance • Sponsorship of approved overseas exchange and Master's programmes (if applicable) • Mentoring by a member of the Senior Management Scholarship for local overseas cover: • Annual allowance (inclusive of maintenance and hostel allowance and tuition and compulsory fees based on a similar local course) • Computer allowance • Pre-studies allowance • Miscellaneous allowance • Return airfare (for attachment in IRAS; to overseas exchange) • Sponsorship of approved overseas exchange • Vacation attachment in IRAS • Mentoring by a member of the Senior Management Overseas scholarships cover: • Maintenance allowance (inclusive of book allowance) • Pre-studies allowance (inclusive of warm clothing and settling-in allowance) • Computer allowance • Miscellaneous allowance • Tuition and other compulsory fees • Return airfare (at beginning and end of course; for attachment in IRAS; to overseas exchange) • Vacation attachment with IRAS • Sponsorship of approved overseas exchange and Masters programmes (if applicable) • Mentoring by a member of the Senior Management Bond Duration: • 4 years (Merit)/ 6 years (Overseas)	• Passion to serve and take on a challenging career in tax. • Outstanding GCE 'A' Level, Polytechnic results or equivalent (E.g. International Baccalaureate (IB), NUS High School Diploma) • Singapore citizens and permanent residents (PRs) intending to take up citizenship. • Outstanding CCA records and leadership qualities. • Those currently serving NS are eligible to apply.
IRAS Mid-Term Undergraduate Scholarship	• Accountancy • Business • Economics • Information Technology • Real Estate • Statistics	• Backpayment of tuition fees, allowances for completed years of study • Benefits for scholarships for overseas course are the same as the IRAS Overseas Undergraduate scholarships • Benefits for scholarship for local courses are the same as the IRAS Merit Undergraduate scholarships for local courses Bond Duration: • 4 years (Merit)/ 6 years (Overseas)	• Passion to serve and take on a challenging career in tax. • Outstanding GCE 'A' Level, Polytechnic results or equivalent (E.g. International Baccalaureate (IB), NUS High School Diploma) • Singapore citizens and permanent residents (PRs) intending to take up citizenship. • Outstanding CCA records and leadership qualities. • Those currently serving NS are eligible to apply.
INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IMDA)			
Singapore Digital (SG:D) Scholarship (Polytechnic) [*The former Infocomm Polytechnic Scholarship (IPOLY) is now part of SG:D Scholarship (Polytechnic)]	SGD Scholarship (Polytechnic) Singapore's 5 local Polytechnics : Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, LASALLE College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) or other local institutions as approved by IMDA Course of studies: • Infocomm media related courses (i.e. courses under Information & Digital Technologies cluster or Arts, Design & Media cluster)	• Full tuition fees and compulsory polytechnic fees • One-time computer allowance • Funding support for courses and certification • Support for Overseas Internships in ICM-related roles which includes: - Economy class return airfare - Cost of living allowances • Support for overseas exposure (student exchange programme, study trips, overseas competition) Bond Duration: No bond	• Be a Singapore citizen; • Have excellent Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Possess a strong interest in infocomm media industry • Matriculate into an approved infocomm-related or media-related course or other related studies (as approved by IMDA)* offered at any of the five local polytechnics, LASALLE College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) or other local institutions as approved by IMDA
Singapore Digital (SG:D) Scholarship (Undergraduate) [*The former National Infocomm Scholarship (NIS) and Media Education Scholarship (MES) is now part of the SG:D Scholarship (Undergraduate).]	SGD Scholarship (Undergraduate) Local autonomous universities/approved institutions or renowned overseas universities Course of studies: Infocomm media related courses such as: • Artificial Intelligence • Communications • Cybersecurity • Data Analytics • TV/Film Studies • Game Design • STEM courses (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) • Language studies in Malay, Tamil and Chinese	• Tuition and other compulsory university fees • Living allowance • One-time Pre-studies allowance including settling-in and computer allowance • Support for overseas internships in ICM-related roles which includes: - Economy class return airfare - Cost of living allowances • Support for overseas exposure (student exchange programme, study trips, overseas competition) • Funding support for courses and certifications for scholars to upgrade themselves with industry-relevant skills Bond Duration: 4 types of scholarships with the following bond period: • Full Overseas scholarship – 5 years bond • Fast Track Bachelors-Masters scholarship – 4 years bond • Full Local scholarship – 3 years bond • Mid-term Local/Overseas scholarship – 1 to 4 years bond dependent on the duration of sponsorship	• Be a Singapore citizen • Have good CCA records / Portfolio etc. • Possess strong interest in an infocomm media career • For Full Scholarship - 'A' Level, IP/IB, or Polytechnic results • For Mid-Term Scholarship - current undergraduate in an infocomm media related degree at a local autonomous university or renowned overseas university with minimally 1 year of studies remaining from the point of award
Singapore Digital (SG:D) Scholarship (Postgraduate) [*The former National Cybersecurity Postgraduate Scholarship and Media Education Scholarship (Postgraduate) is now part of the SG:D scholarship (Postgraduate).]	SGD Scholarship (Postgraduate) Local autonomous universities/approved institutions or renowned overseas universities Course of studies: Infocomm media related courses such as: • Artificial Intelligence • Communications • Cybersecurity • Data Analytics • TV/Film Studies • Game Design • STEM courses (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) • Language studies in Malay, Tamil and Chinese	Full time Masters or PhD studies: • Tuition and other compulsory university fees • One-time Pre-studies allowance including settling-in and computer allowance • Living allowance and/or stipend, and relevant allowances (e.g. thesis allowance) • Support for overseas internships in ICM-related roles which includes: - Economy class return airfare - Cost of living allowances • Support for overseas exposure (student e+A2.C5xchange programme, study trips) • Funding support for courses and certifications for scholars to upgrade themselves with industry-relevant skills Part time Masters studies: • Tuition and other compulsory university fees • Funding support for courses and certifications for scholars to upgrade themselves with industry-relevant skills Bond Duration: For Masters studies: • Overseas scholarship – 2 - 3 years bond dependent on the duration of sponsorship • Full Local scholarship – 2 years bond • Mid-term Local - 1 year • Part-time Local - No Bond For PhD studies: • Overseas scholarship – 3 - 5 years bond dependent on the duration of sponsorship • Full or Mid-term Local scholarship - No bond	• Be a Singapore citizen • Possess a strong interest for a career in the infocomm media industry • Have a strong portfolio if applying for a creative or film-related course For Masters studies, applicants have to be: • Enrolled full-time or part-time in an ICM-related masters programme in a local autonomous/ approved institutions or renowned overseas university; or • Current postgraduate in an ICM-related Masters programme with minimally 1 year of studies remaining from the point of award For PhD studies, applicants have to be: • Enrolled full-time in an ICM-related PhD programme in a local autonomous/approved institutions or renowned overseas university; or • Current postgraduate in an ICM-related PhD programme with minimally 1 year of studies remaining from the point of award
LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (LTA)			
LTA Local/Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship (Full-term & Mid-term)	• Civil Engineering • Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Systems Engineering • Environmental Engineering • Computer Engineering • Accountancy • Economics / Geography / Mass Communications • Science (Computer Science / IT Security & Communications / Data Analytics, Materials Science) Local and Overseas Institutions	LTA Scholars will undergo a well-structured learning and development programme that includes postings to various divisions for exposure to different areas of work. Local Award includes: • Tuition and Compulsory Fees • Maintenance Allowance • Pre-Studies Allowance (for Full-term only) • Sponsorship of up to one approved exchange programme/ summer school • Additional sponsorship of Masters studies (upon approval) Overseas Award includes: • Tuition and Compulsory Fees • Maintenance Allowance • Return Airfare • Pre-studies Allowance (for Full-term only) • Sponsorship of up to one approved exchange programme/ summer school • Additional sponsorship of Masters studies (upon approval)	• Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident intending to take up a Singapore Citizenship • Outstanding GCE 'O' & 'A' Level / NUS High / International Baccalaureate (IB) / Diploma Results • Outstanding University results (for current undergraduates) • Good CCA track record
LTA Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship (Non-English speaking countries)	• Civil Engineering • Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Mechanical Engineering Overseas Institutions	LTA Scholars will undergo a well-structured learning and development programme that includes postings to various divisions for exposure to different areas of work. Overseas Award includes: • Tuition and Compulsory Fees • Maintenance Allowance • Language Support Program • Return Airfare • Pre-studies Allowance • Sponsorship of up to one approved exchange programme/ summer school • Preparatory programme in country of study - Masters sponsorship upon approval	• Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident intending to take up a Singapore Citizenship • Outstanding GCE 'O' & 'A' Level / NUS High / International Baccalaureate (IB) / Diploma Results • Good CCA track record
LTA Local Study Award (Full-term / Mid-term)	• Civil Engineering • Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Mechanical Engineering NUS, NTU, SUTD and SIT	Study Award recipients can look forward to developing their engineering career to become future engineering experts in LTA. Local Award includes: • Tuition and Compulsory Fees • Study Allowance	• Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident intending to take up a Singapore Citizenship • Good GCE 'O' Level and 'A' Level / Diploma / NUS High / International Baccalaureate (IB) results • Good University results in NUS / NTU (for current undergraduates) • Good CCA track record
LOKE CHENG-KIM FOUNDATION			
The Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation Scholarship	Invites students who have applied for admission to courses leading to first degrees conferred by established local and overseas universities in the 2019/2020 academic year to apply for scholarship awards. Looking particularly for applications in the fields of Pure Sciences, Natural and Environmental Sciences (including Ecology, Conservation Biology and Horticulture) and the Humanities.	• Fees and book allowances • Initial clothing allowance • Maintenance allowance • One-time return economy class airfare	Applicants should be Singapore citizens or permanent residents and should not be current holders of other scholarship awards or grants. Candidates should ideally have a strong record of academic and co-curricular achievements, and particular consideration will be given to those who can show a capacity for independent thought, together with a demonstrable interest in and deep and genuine commitment to their respective chosen fields.
MONETARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (MAS)			
MAS Undergraduate Scholarship	All disciplines, except Medicine, Dentistry and Architecture, at local and reputable overseas universities	Local: • Tuition and other approved fees • Maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance • Sponsorship of Exchange Programme / Study Abroad Programme / Summer School (if requirements are met) • Sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • 8-week internship during second year of U/G studies Overseas: • Return airfare • Tuition and other approved fees • Maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance • Sponsorship of Exchange Programme / Study Abroad Programme / Summer School (if requirements are met) • Sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • 8-week internship during second year of U/G studies	The scholarship is open to Singapore Citizens, and Singapore Permanent Residents and foreigners who will undertake to obtain Singapore citizenship GCE 'A' Level (11 units); International Baccalaureate (36 points); or Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) Outstanding academic achievements and co-curricular activities, and strong leadership qualities
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (MPA)			
MPA Local/Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship	Most disciplines (except Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law and Architecture). Some examples of courses that are of direct relevance to MPA's work: • Civil Engineering • Computer Engineering • Computer Science • Data Analytics • Economics • Statistics • Information Systems • International Relations • Marine Engineering • Maritime Business • Mathematics • Naval Architecture • Political Science • Any other related courses	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Monthly maintenance allowance • Other allowance e.g. computer and book allowance • Opportunity for sponsorship of approved student exchange/summer school programme • Internship opportunities before and during studies for exposure to the culture of and work in MPA as well as gain insights into the maritime industry Bond Duration: • Overseas: 6 years • Local: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents (PRs) • Excellent results for GCE 'A' Levels, International Baccalaureate (IB) or equivalent, or Polytechnic Diploma with Merit • Good CCA track records • Undergraduates with good university results may also apply

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III



One of Ms Tan's joys of studying in SMU comes from the opportunity to sing and perform for others. PHOTO: TED CHEN

Double act
Budding singer Agalia Tan loves how the SMU scholarship leads her to a well-rounded education

BY JAC WOO

Ms Agalia Tan is proof that you can have it all as a student at the Singapore Management University (SMU).

When the double-degree undergraduate and recipient of the SMU Global Impact Scholarship Award is not hitting the books, she is performing with SMU VOIX, the university a cappella group, chasing her childhood dream of being a singer.

"Not only did I make many close friends in VOIX, I was also able to do what I love — singing and performing," the 20-year-old says.

Last year, the budding songstress even had the opportunity to be part of the group's Do You A Cappella production at Gateway Theatre, where they performed for a 900-strong audience.

Ms Tan enrolled in SMU's double degree in business and social sciences programme in 2017.

"I chose business as my primary degree because I believe it is highly versatile and can open up many doors for me, while social sciences can help broaden my perspectives of the world and introduce me to new ways of thinking and seeing issues," she says.

The SMU Global Impact Scholarship Award has also led her to paths beyond Singapore.

With its Global Learning Opportunities Worldwide grant, she attended Pembroke-King's Summer Programme at the University of Cambridge in England, and participated in a community service project in Vietnam in 2018.

She says: "The rigour and intensity of the six-week summer school programme stretched me intellectually, which I found important for my personal growth.

"It also broadened my horizons and inspired me to think more deeply about how I can contribute to Singapore in the future."

Learning to serve

The community service project in Vietnam, Project Hua Tat, left the biggest impact on her. The team spent two weeks in Hua Tat, Moc Chau, where they taught English and installed water filters to improve water sanitation.

She recalls: "It was my first experience going abroad to do community service and living in an environment that was radically different from Singapore's. It taught me that happiness can come from very simple things in life."

For her future career plans, Ms Tan is considering a few sectors such as lifestyle business, hospitality, events management and tourism.

But right now, her sights are set on continuing to do community service projects in Vietnam.

"Since the experience was very enriching and meaningful, I have decided to go back again in May as a project leader, to contribute further and play a part in ensuring the sustainability of the project in the future years."

SMU Global Impact Scholarship Award

- CRITERIA:**
- Singapore citizen
 - Outstanding A-level results, local polytechnic diploma, International Baccalaureate diploma, NUS High School diploma or equivalent qualifications
 - Strong leadership capabilities and potential
 - Excellent record in co-curricular and/or community activities
- VALUE OF AWARD:**
- Tuition fees coverage (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy)
 - Annual living allowance
 - One-time computer allowance upon enrolment
 - Global Learning Opportunities Worldwide grant
 - An optional concurrent or sequential SMU Master's programme
 - On-campus accommodation at the SMU Prinsep Street Residences in the first year of studies
- BOND PERIOD:**
- None
- Terms and conditions apply.*

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information, log on to www.scholarschoice.com.sg

ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE			
The SAF Scholarship	Most disciplines* with the exception of professional courses such as architecture, medicine, dentistry, etc. Course Category: • Arts / Social Sciences • Economics • Engineering • International Relations • Law* • Mathematics • Philosophy, Politics and Economics • Political Science • Psychology • Science / Natural Sciences * Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar while serving in the SAF.	Overseas Studies • Full salary for the duration of studies (including bonuses) • Full Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Overseas Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer • Return economy airfare • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Local Studies • Full Salary for the duration of studies (including bonuses) • Full Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer • Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 5 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Bond Duration: 6 years	• Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. • Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records • Strong leadership qualities • Qualify for and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) • Possess a strong interest in a military career
PSC Scholarship (Engineering) Defence and Security	Course Category: • Engineering / Science such as • Aeronautical Engineering • Architecture • Chemistry • Civil Engineering • Cognitive Science • Computer Science / Engineering • Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Engineering Science • Marine Engineering • Materials Science / Engineering • Mathematics • Mechanical Engineering • Naval Architecture • Physics The list is not exhaustive.	Overseas Studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Overseas Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer • Return economy airfare • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Local Studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Local Maintenance Allowance • Book allowance • Computer allowance • Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 5 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Bond Duration: • English Speaking Countries: 6 years • Non-English Speaking Countries: 5 years • Singapore: 4 years (with/without Master's; Double Degrees)	• Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. • Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records
SAF Merit Scholarship	Most disciplines* with the exception of professional courses such as architecture, medicine, dentistry, etc. Course Category: • Arts / Social Sciences • Economics • Engineering • International Relations • Law* • Mathematics • Philosophy, Politics and Economics • Political Science • Psychology • Science / Natural Sciences * Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar while serving in the SAF.	Overseas Studies • Monthly salary for the duration of studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Return economy airfare • Book allowance • Computer allowance • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Local Studies • Monthly salary for the duration of studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Book Allowance • Computer Allowance • Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Bond Duration: 6 years	• Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. • Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records • Strong leadership qualities • Qualify for and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) • Possess a strong interest in a military career
SAF Engineering Scholarship	Course Category: • Engineering / Science such as • Aerospace Engineering • Chemical Engineering • Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Marine Engineering • Material Science and Engineering • Mechanical Engineering The list is not exhaustive.	Overseas Studies • Monthly salary for the duration of studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Overseas Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer • Return economy airfare • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Local Studies • Monthly salary for the duration of studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Book allowance • Computer allowance • Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Bond Duration: • 6 years	• Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. • Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records • Strong leadership qualities • Qualify for and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) • Possess a strong interest in a military engineering career
Defence Merit Scholarship	Most disciplines* with the exception of professional courses such as architecture, medicine, dentistry, etc. Course Category: • Arts / Social Sciences • Economics • Engineering • International Relations • Law* • Mathematics • Philosophy, Politics and Economics • Political Science • Psychology • Science / Natural Sciences * Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar while serving in the SAF.	Overseas Studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Overseas Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer • Return economy airfare • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Local Studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Book allowance • Computer allowance • Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Bond Duration: • 6 years (Overseas); 4 years (Local)	• Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. • Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records

For more information on other scholarships and awards, pls visit <https://www.mindef.gov.sg/scholarship/>

SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Smart Nation
Scholarship

CRITERIA:

■ Singapore citizens with outstanding CCA record and A-level results, polytechnic diploma or equivalent, who are passionate about pursuing a technology-related career and an ICT-related degree programme

VALUE OF AWARD:

■ Full tuition and other compulsory fees, living and one-time allowances such as IT equipment, warm clothing, return shipping and settling-in allowances

BOND PERIOD:

■ Four years (local),
■ Six years (overseas)

Terms and conditions apply.



Mr Yong is one of the first recipients of the Smart Nation Scholarship. PHOTO: YONG MING YANG

The future is now

Smart Nation Scholarship recipient
Yong Ming Yang hopes to bring the future
into the present, through his work in
artificial intelligence and virtual reality

BRYANT CHAN

Smart Nation Scholarship holder Yong Ming Yang envisions a future for Singapore where cutting-edge technology improves — and even saves — lives across multiple sectors, from healthcare to transportation to the environment.

Picture this: a man on a gurney in the emergency ward is gasping for breath. A catheter is threaded through a vein in his arm and into his heart, where the diagnosis of pulmonary edema (excess fluid in the lungs causing breathing difficulty) is swiftly confirmed — as predicted by artificial intelligence (AI) via live camera feed. A medical professional administers diuretics and the patient makes a full recovery within days.

A thief snatches a passer-by's smartphone out of her bag. All it takes is a single tap of her smartwatch for her smartphone to send its location to all police officers in the vicinity. With the phone's global positioning satellite data and relative velocity on hand, a network of security cameras sweep the area and cross-reference a facial database, identifying the thief in seconds. Two officers swiftly apprehend him, and the phone is reunited with its rightful owner.

Elsewhere, an autonomous vehicle experiences engine trouble on the express-

way, and comes to a stop in the middle of the road. Immediately, its on-board AI, connected to the Internet, notifies the thousands of other vehicles on the same thoroughfare, prompting them to seek alternative paths. Traffic continues to flow unimpeded around the stranded vehicle. Within minutes, an autonomous tow truck appears on the scene — again, summoned by the on-board AI — and whisks it away.

"These technologies really have the potential to revolutionise our daily lifestyle and standard of living for the better," says Mr Yong. "So one way to kick-start the process would be to first get an education in computer science."

The 20-year-old is one of the first recipients of the Smart Nation Scholarship. Jointly awarded by the Government Technology Agency (GovTech), the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA), the Smart Nation Scholarship aims to develop and nurture technology talents and leaders for public service.

Keen to learn

It was the great promise of artificial intelligence and virtual reality (VR) that got Mr Yong interested in the Smart Nation Scholarship. He had read articles about

how AI could predict whether the presence of certain bacteria in patients would result in the development of a certain sickness; and how VR technology could be used by telcos to provide more personalised customer service.

This opened his eyes to the possibilities of developing technology to benefit everyone in the country.

What if VR could be applied in other ways, such as combating loneliness in home-bound elderly, by letting them interact with others through VR? Or if the pattern-recognition capabilities of AI could be used to identify a specific disease, through cross-referencing other patients' symptoms?

"Seeing as how AI is likely to revolutionise every industry, it is evident that infocomm technology will impact every aspect of our lives," he says. "Thus, it's really important to be involved in it."

Mr Yong will matriculate at the National University of Singapore (NUS) this August, to pursue a double degree in business and computer science.

It might come as a surprise to some, he admits, for a Smart Nation Scholar to be studying business alongside computing. But as he says: "One of the reasons I'm pursuing a double degree is because I feel that it's a really good opportunity to widen my horizons, to be able to look at things from different perspectives."

His business degree will give him valuable insight into the various problems that businesses face, he adds. Armed with this knowledge, he hopes he can come up with more holistic solutions to said problems.

"Approaching problems from multiple perspectives is a necessity when solving problems in computer science," says Mr Yong, adding that learning an entirely different discipline is a good way to gain some perspective.

And it is said perspective that he hopes will serve him well during his time at IMDA.

"Right now, I don't have a specific position in mind, as I don't yet have a very comprehensive view of computer science," he says. "But my main goal is to acquire the skill sets to be able to come up with solutions that would benefit the public as a whole."

My main goal is to acquire
the skill sets to come up with
solutions that would benefit
the public as a whole.

MR YONG MING YANG
Smart Nation Scholarship recipient



The LOKE CHENG-KIM FOUNDATION Scholarships

The Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation invites students who have applied for admission to courses leading to first degrees conferred by established local and overseas universities in the 2019/2020 academic year to apply for scholarship awards.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should be Singapore citizens or permanent residents and should not be current holders of other scholarship awards or grants. The Board is looking particularly for applications in the fields of Pure Sciences, Natural and Environmental Sciences (including Ecology, Conservation Biology and Horticulture) and the Humanities.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should ideally have a strong record of academic and co-curricular achievements, and particular consideration will be given to those who can show a capacity for independent thought, together with a demonstrable interest in and deep and genuine commitment to their respective chosen fields. Candidates will be asked to submit with their prescribed application form a personal statement (maximum 500 words) stating their career aims and aspirations, and how they see their chosen course of study as helping to achieve them.

SCHOLARSHIP VALUE

A scholarship's annual value will cover fees and book allowances, initial clothing allowance, maintenance allowance and one-time return economy class airfare and is tenable for the whole undergraduate course of study leading to a first degree.

APPLICATIONS

Applications must be made on the prescribed form downloadable from the Foundation's official website (www.lokefoundation.com.sg) or obtainable from:-

The Secretary
The Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation
c/o Tricor Singapore Pte Ltd
80 Robinson Road #02-00
Singapore 068898

CLOSING DATE

15 March 2019

Applicants shortlisted for interview will be notified by 30 April 2019



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GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

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ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MND)			
MND EDGE Scholarship	• Engineering • Urban Studies • Urban Planning & Design • Environmental Science • Real Estate • Sociology • Economics • Geography - And any other related disciplines Countries and universities of study approved by MND (Local / Overseas)	• Tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and other allowances • Internship attachment with MND (including return airfare for overseas scholars) • Return airfare (for overseas scholars) • Sponsorship of approved student exchange / summer programmes Bond Duration: • For undergraduate study in overseas universities: 6 years • For undergraduate study in Singapore: 4 years	• Be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident who is willing to take up Singapore Citizenship • Have strong leadership qualities and potential • Have good academic and Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) records • Have GCE A Levels, polytechnic diploma with merit or equivalent qualifications e.g. International Baccalaureate or high school diploma • Have a strong interest in a career with the MND Family and the Public Service
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE)			
Public Service Commission Scholarship (Teaching Service)	• Languages • Humanities • Art and Music • Physical Education and Sports Science • Social Sciences • Sciences • Mathematics Reputable overseas universities, local autonomous universities, or NTU-NIE	• Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and pre-studies allowance • Return economy airfare (for overseas studies only) • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment and HQ internship) • Opportunities to participate in overseas school attachment • Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs • Possibility of sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Bond Duration: • English speaking countries: 6 years • Non-English speaking countries: 5 years • Local: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens, or Singapore Permanent Residents who take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies • Good character, outstanding leadership qualities and keen passion for education • Excellent Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills • GCE A' Levels (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High Diploma or equivalent
Education Merit Scholarship (EMS)	• Languages • Humanities • Art and Music • Physical Education and Sports Science • Social Sciences • Sciences • Mathematics Reputable overseas universities, local autonomous universities, or NTU-NIE	• Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and pre-studies allowance • Return economy airfare (for overseas studies only) • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment and HQ internship) • Opportunities to participate in overseas school attachment • Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs • Possibility of sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Bond Duration: • English speaking countries: 6 years • Non-English speaking countries: 5 years • Local: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens, or Singapore Permanent Residents who take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies • Good character, strong leadership qualities and keen passion for education • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills • GCE A' Levels (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High Diploma or equivalent
MOE Teaching Scholarship (MOETS)	• Languages • Humanities • Art and Music • Physical Education and Sports Science • Social Sciences • Sciences • Mathematics Reputable overseas universities, local autonomous universities, or NTU-NIE	• Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and pre-studies allowance • Return economy airfare (for overseas studies only) • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment) • Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs • Possibility of sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Bond Duration: • English speaking countries: 6 years • Non-English speaking countries: 5 years • Local: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens, or Singapore Permanent Residents who take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies • Good character, strong leadership qualities and keen passion for education • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills • GCE A' Levels (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High Diploma or equivalent
MOE Teaching Award (MOE TA)	• Languages • Humanities • Art and Music • Physical Education and Sports Science • Social Sciences • Sciences • Mathematics Reputable local autonomous universities or NTU-NIE	A' level or equivalent/ Polytechnic Diploma Holders, Year 1 and Year 2 undergraduates • Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance allowance • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment) • Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Year 3 undergraduates (for those proceeding to Honours with at least two academic semesters left at the point of application) • Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance allowance • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment) • Sponsorship of approved summer programmes and CCAs • \$6000 paid in 2 tranches (if the undergraduate is proceeding for his/her Honours year of study in the following semester at the point of award) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree	A' Level or equivalent/ Polytechnic Diploma Holders • Good character, keen passion for teaching • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Good interpersonal and communication skills • Good A' Level or equivalent/Polytechnic results or equivalent (e.g. International Baccalaureate, NUS High Diploma) • A' level candidates should offer at least 10 academic units • Qualify for entry into a local autonomous university Year 1 or Year 2 undergraduates pursuing courses in the local autonomous universities • Good character, keen passion for teaching • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Good interpersonal and communication skills • Good university results • Reading relevant teaching subjects at university Year 3 undergraduates pursuing courses in the local autonomous universities • Good character, keen passion for teaching • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Good interpersonal and communication skills • Good university results • Reading relevant teaching subjects at university and proceeding to Honours with at least two academic semesters left at the point of application
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA)			
The Singapore Police Force Scholarship (SPFS)	Most disciplines except Medicine, Dentistry and Architecture	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for Masters and exchange programmes (if requirements are met) • Full salary for the duration of study • National Service Disruption Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Display strong leadership qualities and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) • Keen interest in a career with the SPF
Singapore Merit Scholarship (SMS)	Most disciplines except Medicine, Dentistry and Architecture	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for Masters and exchange programmes (if requirements are met) • Full salary for the duration of study • National Service Disruption Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Display strong leadership qualities and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) • Keen interest in a career with the Home Team
Singapore Government Scholarship (SGS)	Most disciplines except Medicine, Dentistry and Architecture	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for exchange programmes (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good performance in National Service • Keen interest in a career with the Home Team
SCDF Paramedic Scholarship	Para-medicine or related disciplines in Emergency Health or Clinical Practice	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for exchange programmes (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good performance in National Service • Keen interest in a career with the SCDF
Home Team Science and Technology Scholarship	Science and Engineering Disciplines	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for exchange programmes (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good performance in National Service • Keen interest in a career with the Singapore Police Force with deep specialisation in science, technology and engineering
For more information on other scholarships such as Local Merit Scholarship (LMS) and Home Team Local Study Award (HTLSA), please visit https://www.mha.gov.sg/join-mha/scholarships-awards			
MOH HOLDINGS (MOHH) SINGAPORE PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SECTOR: - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - NATIONAL HEALTHCARE GROUP - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM - SINGAPORE HEALTH SERVICES All Healthcare Scholarships are centrally awarded and managed by MOH Holdings (MOHH) on behalf of the Singapore Public Healthcare Sector.			
Healthcare Merit Award (HMA)	• Diagnostic Radiography • Dietetics • Medical Social Work • Nursing • Occupational Therapy • Orthoptics • Pharmacy • Physiotherapy • Podiatry • Prosthetics and Orthotics • Radiation Therapy • Respiratory Therapy • Speech Therapy Overseas: Reputable universities in Australia, UK (for selected disciplines) and US (for Respiratory Therapy only) Local: National University of Singapore (for Pharmacy, Nursing and Social Work) Singapore Institute of Technology (for Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy , Diagnostic Radiography, Radiation Therapy and Nursing)	Overseas • Tuition fees and other approved charges • Monthly maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance (for warm clothing, settling-in, computer) • Return economy airfare • Sponsorship for MOHH approved student exchange programmes, seminars and conferences • Developmental programmes during course of study such as vacation attachments in Singapore healthcare institutions • Commencement award • Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) Local • Tuition fees and other approved charges • Monthly maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance (settling-in, computer) • Hostel fees (if applicable) • Sponsorship for MOHH approved student exchange programmes, seminars and conferences • Commencement award • Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) Bond Duration: • Overseas Studies: 6 years • Local Studies: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Keen passion to make a difference in public healthcare • Strong people and communication skills • Good GCE A' Level results (with at least 10 academic units), Polytechnic results or equivalent (e.g. IB Diploma or High School Diploma) • Good CCA records
Healthcare Administration Scholarship (HAS)	All disciplines such as Business, Accountancy, Economics except for Medicine, Dentistry and other healthcare related disciplines.	• Tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly allowance • Pre-study allowance • Sponsorship for MOHH approved development programmes Bond Duration: Full-Term Scholarship 3 years bond for studies at SIT 4 years bond for studies at NUS/NTU/SMU/SUSS/SUTD Mid-Term Scholarship 2 years bond for local studies 3 years bond for overseas studies	• Singapore Citizen • Have excellent A level results or relevant diploma results or equivalent qualifications • Current undergraduates should have outstanding academic results, expecting to graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent • Have good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities • Have a passion for public healthcare and excellent communication skills
Healthcare Graduate Studies Award (HGSA)*	• Audiology • Biostatistics • Business Analytics • Clinical Psychology • Epidemiology • Health Economics • Medical Informatics • Public Health • Speech Therapy Master's degree in selected health science disciplines from MOHH approved local or overseas university	• Tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly allowance • Pre-study allowance (for overseas study only) • Return economy airfare (for overseas study only) • Sponsorship for approved development programmes Bond Duration: Local: 2 years bond (for course duration of up to 12 months) 3 years bond (for course duration of more than 12 months, capped at 24 months) Overseas: 3 years bond (for course duration up to 12 months) 4 years (for course duration more than 12 months, capped at 24 months)	• Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident who will take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies • Have a good university degree (Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) • Have a good track record of work achievements (if applicable) • Have good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities • Have a passion for public healthcare and possess excellent communication skills

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information, log on to www.scholarschoice.com.sg

ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
Community Nursing Scholarship (CNS)* *CNS will cover nursing diploma and/ or degree studies in local educational institutions, as well as local post-registration nursing degree studies.	• Nursing • Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) • Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) • Alice Lee Centre for Nursing under National University of Singapore (NUS) applicable only for 4 year nursing course • Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) 19 month nursing post registration studies • MOHH approved overseas universities 1 year nursing post registration studies	• Tuition and compulsory charges • Monthly allowance* • Pre-studies allowance* • Salaries for nurses undertaking post-registration degree studies with more than one year of experience in the community setting • Return economy airfare (for overseas studies only) • Sponsorship for MOHH approved developmental programmes • Commencement award* • Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) *Existing nursing students receiving the CNS will receive full funding support, which includes tuition fees and monthly allowance from the point of award, as well as a back payment of tuition fees (excluding monthly allowance) from the first year of study. Pre-studies allowance and commencement award are not applicable. Bond computation for these mid-term scholarship recipients is the same as that for full-term Bond Duration: For 'O' Level Graduates • Diploma (NYP/NP) + Local Degree (SIT): 3 years bond OR • Diploma (NYP/NP) + MOHH-approved Overseas Post-Registration Degree: 3 years bond 'A' Level Graduates or Polytechnic Diploma Holders or equivalent qualifications (eg. International Baccalaureate (IB) or high school diploma) • Local Degree (NUS): 4 years bond Existing Nurses seeking Degree Conversion • Local Degree (SIT): 3 years bond • MOHH-approved Overseas Post-Registration Degree: 3 years bond	• Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident who will take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on his/her studies • Possess good academic results, co-curricular activities record and communication skills • Be applying to take up nursing studies in local educational institutions (NYP, NP, NUS or SIT) or a post-registration nursing degree programme in MOHH-approved local or overseas universities; or • Be a current nursing student in local educational institution (NYP, NP, NUS or SIT) • Have a strong interest to serve in the community and possess leadership qualities
Integrated Nursing Scholarship (INS)	• Nursing 3-year nursing diploma scholarship with advancement to either of the following degree options: • 19-month SIT nursing degree scholarship • 1-year degree scholarship at reputable overseas universities	• Tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly allowances • Pre-studies allowance • Sponsorship for MOHH approved student exchange programmes, seminars and conferences • Commencement award • Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with a least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) Bond Duration: 3 years bond (for Diploma (NYP/NP) + Local Degree (SIT) studies OR Diploma (NYP/NP) + MOHH-approved Overseas Post-Registration Degree)	• Singapore Citizen • Have applied to the nursing course at Nanyang Polytechnic or Ngee Ann Polytechnic • Have outstanding GCE 'O' level results of 11 R2B2 of 10 points and below • Have good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities • Have a passion for nursing and possess excellent communication skills

For more information on our scholarships such as Mid-Term Healthcare Scholarship, Degree Conversion Healthcare Scholarship, Healthcare Graduate Studies Award Nursing, please visit <http://www.healthcarescholarships.sg/>

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (NTU)

Renaissance Engineering Programme Scholarship	Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP) at NTU.	• Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant). • Living allowance of \$56,000 per academic year for all years except in year 3. Allowances for year 3 will be determined by REP Office. • Book allowance of \$5500 per academic year. • Accommodation allowance of up to \$52,000 per academic year (applicable to scholarship holders who reside in NTU hostels only). • Computer allowance of \$51,750 (one-off). • Overseas benefits to Year 3 students: - Enrolment and tuition fees at a partner university. - Overseas accommodation and meals/meal allowance at the partner university, including the official duration of the Industrial orientation programme/internship. - Return airfare. Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents. • Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma or IB Diploma qualifications. • Excellent co-curricular records. • Strong leadership qualities and potential.
NTU-University Scholars Programme (NTU-USP) Scholarship	Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate degree programme in NTU and be on the NTU-University Scholars Programme (NTU-USP).	• Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant). • Living allowance of \$56,500 per academic year. • Accommodation allowance of up to \$52,000 per academic year (applicable to scholarship holders who reside in NTU hostels only). • Travel Grant of \$55,000 for an overseas study/attachment programme (one-off) subject to terms and conditions in the Travel Grant form. • Computer allowance of \$51,750 (one-off). • Overseas benefits in the semester of the NTU-USP Study Abroad Programme (structured exchange programme): - Enrolment and tuition fees at a partner university. - Overseas accommodation, living allowances and other related costs. - Return airfare and transportation to/from partner university (one-off). Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Diploma awarded by a polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Excellent co-curricular records. • Strong leadership qualities and potential.
Nanyang Scholarship (CN Yang Scholars Programme)	Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate degree programme and be on the CN Yang Scholars Programme.	• Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant). • Living allowance of \$56,500 per academic year. • Accommodation allowance of up to \$52,000 per academic year (applicable to scholarship holders who reside in NTU hostels only). • Travel grant of \$55,000 for an overseas programme (one-off). • Computer allowance of \$51,750 (one-off). • The CN Yang Scholars Programme offers: - Guaranteed four years of stay in NTU halls of residence. - Guaranteed overseas exchange for one semester. - Guaranteed overseas final year research project with coverage for airfare, accommodation, meals, insurance and visa fees. - Opportunities for research attachment from year one onwards and to attend an international conference with subsidy. Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Excellent co-curricular records. • Strong leadership qualities and potential.
Nanyang Scholarship	Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate degree programme ^A in NTU. ^A The scholarship will cover the years of study in NTU. For the Biomedical Sciences & Chinese Medicine programme, the Scholarship will cover only the first three years of study in NTU.	• Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant). • Living allowance of \$56,500 per academic year. • Accommodation allowance of up to \$52,000 per academic year (applicable to scholarship holders who reside in NTU hostels only). • Travel grant of \$55,000 for an overseas programme (one-off). • Computer allowance of \$51,750 (one-off). • Priority for Overseas Programme. • Participation in Scholars Orientation Programme, Scholars Award Ceremony, Outreach Programmes and Eminent Speaker Series. Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Excellent co-curricular records. • Strong leadership qualities and potential.
College Scholarship	Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate degree programme ^A in NTU. ^A The scholarship will cover the years of study in NTU. For the Biomedical Sciences & Chinese Medicine programme, the Scholarship will cover only the first three years of study in NTU.	• Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant). • Living allowance of \$53,600 per academic year Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Good co-curricular records. • Good leadership qualities and potential.

For more information on other scholarships such as E. W. Barker Scholarship, Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Scholarship, LKCMedicine Scholarship, LKY-STEP Award, Toh Kian Chui Scholarship, University Engineering Scholarship, Wee Cho Yaw Future Leaders Award, Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund Undergraduate Scholarship, ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship, NTU Science and Engineering Undergraduate Scholarship, please visit <https://admissions.ntu.edu.sg/UndergraduateAdmissions/pages/scholarships.aspx>

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (NEA) & PUB, SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL WATER AGENCY

National Environment & Water (NEW) Scholarship	• Civil Engineering * • Mechanical Engineering * • Electrical Engineering * • Environmental Engineering * • Chemical Engineering • Systems Engineering • Environmental Science • Physics • Chemistry • Mathematics • Business Analytics / Statistics • Microbiology • Biostatistics • Atmospheric Science • Epidemiology • Public Health • Environmental Ecology • Behavioural Sciences • Entomology • Geospatial Analytics Other courses relevant to NEA or PUB. * Preferred discipline for PUB. At any local universities (NUS, NTU, SUTD, SMU, SIT) or any renowned overseas universities (e.g. specific institutions at US, UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, China, Japan).	Local • Maintenance allowance, tuition and compulsory fees, computer and book allowance and hostels fees where applicable. • Sponsorship for approved enrichment/ exchange programmes • Possibility of pursuing postgraduate degrees. Overseas • Maintenance allowance, tuition and compulsory fees, return airfare, plus allowance for computer, books, settling-in and warm clothing where applicable. • Sponsorship for approved enrichment/ exchange programmes • Possibility of pursuing postgraduate degrees. Bond Duration: • Local: 4 years • Overseas: 6 years • Overseas in non-english speaking countries: 5 years	• Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents with outstanding academic results and a noteworthy CCA record. • 'A' Level, International Baccalaureate, Polytechnic, NUS High Students, and Undergraduates may apply. Note: For Permanent Residents, confirmation of award will be based on the successful application for Singapore Citizenship.
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NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD (NHB)

National Heritage Board Scholarship	• Curatorial Studies • Conservation • Archaeology • Museums • History (e.g. Singapore and Southeast Asia) • Cultural and Heritage Management	Full scholarship (capped at \$250,000) Partial scholarship (capped at \$120,000) Bond Duration: • 3 years (Local or partial overseas scholarship) • 6 years (Full overseas scholarship)	Singapore Citizens, non-NHB employees
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (NIE), NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP)	• The NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP) is one of the NTU's Premier Scholars Programme. It is prestigious award for outstanding scholars with a passion and calling to be professional leaders in education. TSP aims to produce graduates with intellectual rigour, strong leadership, and relevant global perspective to make significant contributions to education. • TSP is a 4-year programme that includes a multi-disciplinary curriculum that supplements the core curriculum in the Bachelor of Arts (Education) / Bachelors of Science (Education) programme. The programme comprises a wide selection of electives, seminars by distinguished professors, industry luminaries, as well as personal guidance by top faculty members. • The TSP also offers in-depth content specialization, research opportunities, leadership programmes, international practicum and semester exchanges that promise to broaden students' perspectives and enable them to be leaders of educational change.	Applicants must apply to the Ministry of Education for a scholarship or award to be eligible for this programme. The value is tied to the scholarship/award given by MOE Bond Duration: Tied to the scholarship or award conditions stipulated by MOE	Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. Excellent co-curricular records. Strong leadership qualities and potential. Requirements as stipulated by the MOE scholarship/award.
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NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD (NLB)

NLB Undergraduate Scholarship	Undergraduate studies in fields to advance library development and to grow domain expertise: Library Science, Information Science, Southeast Asian Studies, South Asian Studies, History, English, Chinese, Literature, Geography, Contemporary China, etc. Scholars can choose to study locally or at renowned universities overseas.	The NLB Undergraduate Scholarship is a fully-funded programme that covers tuition and other compulsory fees, return airfare (for overseas scholarship), maintenance and other allowances (where applicable). Bond Duration: Local universities: 4 years Non-English speaking countries (e.g. China): 5 years English-speaking countries (e.g. US, UK and Australia): 6 years	Students/graduates or equivalent who meet the following: • Singaporean Citizen or Permanent Resident who must attain Singapore Citizenship before the award of scholarship • Have excellent academic results • Possess GCE 'A' Levels (minimum of 11 academic units); International Baccalaureate; Polytechnic Diploma • Possess strong leadership qualities, interpersonal skills and have a passion for learning and service • Have a good co-curricular (CCA) record
NLB Postgraduate Scholarship	Postgraduate studies in fields to advance library development and to grow domain expertise: Library Science, Information Science, Southeast Asian Studies, South Asian Studies, History, English, Chinese, Literature, Geography, Contemporary China, etc. Scholars can choose to study locally or at renowned universities overseas.	The NLB Postgraduate Scholarship s a fully-funded programme that covers tuition and other compulsory fees, return airfare (for overseas scholarship), maintenance and other allowances (where applicable). Bond Duration: • Local universities: 2 years • Overseas universities: 3 years	University graduates or equivalent who meet the following: • Singaporean Citizen or Permanent Resident who must attain Singapore Citizenship before the award of scholarship • Have excellent academic results • Possess at least 2nd Class Upper Honours degree • Possess strong leadership qualities, interpersonal skills and have a passion for learning and service • Have a good co-curricular (CCA) record

NATIONAL PARKS BOARD (NPARKS)

National Parks Board (NParks) Undergraduate Scholarship	Horticulture, Forestry, Botany, Veterinary Science/Medicine, Environmental Science / Management, Ecology, Geography, Zoology and Sociology We also welcome applicants who are interested to study History, Social Science and Human Geography Universities: Singapore - National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University Australia - Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales USA - University of California, Berkeley, Cornell University UK - Imperial College London, University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh Country of Study: Australia, Canada, UK, USA or Singapore	Value of Award • All approved tuition and compulsory fees • Return economy airfare, maintenance and other allowance eg. Settling-in Bond Duration: • Overseas studies: 6 years bond • Local studies: 4 years bond	Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents, with outstanding academic achievements, demonstrated leadership capabilities and active participation in co-curricular and community/ voluntary activities, to apply for the prestigious NParks' Undergraduate Scholarships.
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GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

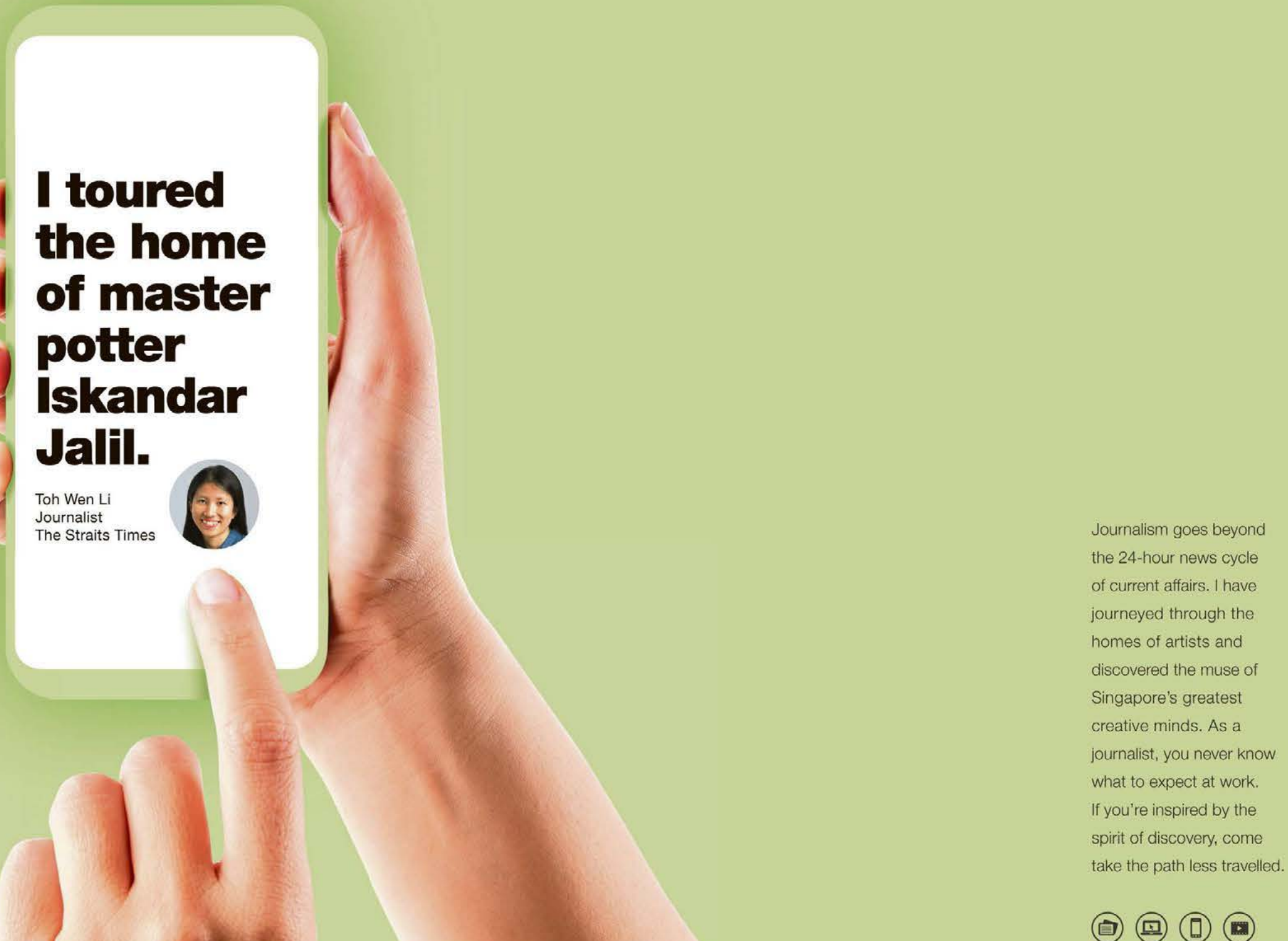
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ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
National Parks Board (NParks) Overseas Merit Award	Horticulture, Plant Science, Forestry, Veterinary Science/Technology and Environmental Science Universities: Australia - Australian National University, University of Melbourne UK - University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh Country of Study: Australia or UK	• All approved tuition and compulsory fees • Return economy airfare, maintenance and other allowance eg. Settling-in Bond Duration: Depends on the course duration	Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents with outstanding academic achievements, proven leadership capabilities and a stellar record in co-curricular and community/voluntary activities are invited to apply for the NParks Overseas Merit Award.
National Parks Board (NParks) Postgraduate Scholarships	Plant Taxonomy, Plant Breeding, Plant Physiology, Plant Protection, Soil Science, Horticulture, Arboriculture, Veterinary Science/Medicine, Urban Ecology, Urban Planning Universities: Singapore - National University of Singapore USA - Cornell University, Yale University UK - Imperial College London, University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh Country of Study: US, UK, Australia or Singapore	Value of Award • All approved tuition and compulsory fees • Return economy airfare, maintenance and other allowance eg. Settling in Bond Duration: Overseas studies • For course duration not exceeding 1 year – 3 years bond • For course duration exceeding 1 year – 6 years bond Local studies: 2.5 years bond	Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents with outstanding academic achievements, proven leadership capabilities and a stellar record in co-curricular and community/voluntary activities are invited to apply for the NParks Postgraduate Scholarships.
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (NUS)			
NUS Global Merit Scholarship	Any full-time undergraduate course leading to a first degree, except Dentistry, Medicine, Music and Yale-NUS College	• Full subsidy for tuition fees (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • Annual living allowance of \$56,000 • \$52,800 annual accommodation allowance if Scholar is staying on campus, \$52,905 if Scholar is staying in Ridge View Residential College, or \$54,480 if Scholar is staying in one of the University Town Residential Colleges • One-time computer allowance of \$52,000 • \$57,500 Student Exchange Programme/ NUS Overseas Colleges allowance per semester for non-Asian countries and Japan, and \$55,000 per semester for other Asian countries, for up to a maximum of 2-semester • Eligibility to enrol in the University Scholars Programme (USP) or University Town College Programme (UTCP) • Guaranteed offer of on-campus accommodation (excluding the Residential Colleges or University Town) for first two years of undergraduate studies • Guaranteed placement for a 1-semester overseas Student Exchange Programme Bond Duration: Bond-free	• Singaporean Citizens • Strong leadership qualities and potential • Good co-curricular activities record • Offered GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in Singapore or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate/ NUS High School Diploma)
NUS Merit Scholarship	Any full-time undergraduate course leading to a first degree, except Music and Yale-NUS College	• Full subsidy for tuition fees (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • Annual living allowance of \$56,000 • One-time computer allowance of \$52,000 • Guaranteed offer of on-campus accommodation (excluding the Residential Colleges or University Town) for first two years of undergraduate studies • Guaranteed placement for a 1-semester overseas Student Exchange Programme Bond Duration: Bond-free	• Singaporean Citizens • Strong leadership qualities and potential • Good co-curricular activities record • Offered GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in Singapore or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate/ NUS High School Diploma)
NUS Sports Scholarship	Any full-time undergraduate course leading to a first degree, except Music and Yale-NUS College	• Full subsidy for tuition fees (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • Annual living allowance of \$56,000 • \$52,800 annual accommodation allowance if scholar is staying on campus • Guaranteed offer of on-campus accommodation (excluding Residential Colleges or University Town) for first two years of undergraduate studies • Guaranteed placement for a 1-semester overseas Student Exchange Programme Bond Duration: Bond-free	• Singaporean Citizens • Strong leadership qualities and potential • Good co-curricular activities record, particularly in sports • Offered GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in Singapore or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate/ NUS High School Diploma)
NUS Performing & Visual Arts Scholarship	Any full-time undergraduate course leading to a first degree, except Music and Yale-NUS College	• Full subsidy for tuition fees (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • Annual living allowance of \$56,000 • \$52,800 annual accommodation allowance if scholar is staying on campus • Guaranteed offer of on-campus accommodation (excluding Residential Colleges or University Town) for first two years of undergraduate studies • Guaranteed placement for a 1-semester overseas Student Exchange Programme Bond Duration: Bond-free	• Singaporean Citizens • Strong leadership qualities and potential • Good co-curricular activities record, particularly in performing and/or visual arts • Offered GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in Singapore or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate/ NUS High School Diploma)
For more information on other scholarships such as NUS Science & Technology (S&T) Undergraduate Scholarship, NUS ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship (AUS), University Engineering Scholarship (UES), Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship to Encourage Upgrading (LKY-STEP) Award, Stephen Riady Young Entrepreneur Scholarship, Wee Cho Yaw Future Leaders Award, pls visit http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/scholarships/			
PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (PA)			
People's Association Scholarship	Fields of Study Most disciplines, except medicine, dentistry and architecture. Tenable Universities Overseas and Local Universities	Value: • Full tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance • Sponsorship for approved student exchange programme • Scholarship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Return airfare (for overseas universities) • Medical/Health insurance (where required by the university) Bond Duration: Scholars will work with PA for a period of four years and six years for local and overseas scholarship respectively.	• Are a Singapore Citizen • Demonstrate leadership qualities, community involvement and a strong interest to serve and make a difference to the community • Have a GCE A Levels, International Baccalaureate, Polytechnic and/or equivalent qualifications
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SINGAPORE (PSC)			
The PSC offers the following scholarships, with careers in (i) Public Administration, (ii) Professional Service, or (iii) Uniformed Services: • PSC Scholarship • PSC Scholarship (Legal Service) • PSC Scholarship (Foreign Service) • PSC Scholarship (Teaching Service) • PSC Scholarship (Engineering) • PSC Scholarship (Public Finance) • PSC Mid-Term Scholarship (Medicine/Dentistry) • The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Scholarship • The Singapore Police Force (SPF) Scholarship • PSC Master's Scholarship	A wide range of courses including (but not limited to): • Engineering • Computer Science • Data Analytics • Economics • Accountancy • Science • Mathematics • Law • Philosophy • History, etc. Our scholarship holders study in renowned universities based locally and globally (but not limited to): • Singapore • UK • US • China • Japan • France • Taiwan • Germany • Australia • New Zealand • Other non-traditional countries	Value: • Covers tuition fees (undergraduate and master's), maintenance allowances, approved airfares etc • Sponsorship for approved academic programmes and their associated costs • Other programmes e.g. Gap Year attachment with PSC's partner companies Bond Duration: (Based on country of study) • Singapore: 4 years • Singapore (Med/Den): 6 years • Non-English speaking countries (e.g. China, France, Japan, Germany): 5 years • US/UK: 6 years	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents who should obtain Singapore citizenship before commencement of study • Strong leadership qualities and interest in a public service career • Pre-tertiary qualifications such as, GCE 'A' levels, International Baccalaureate Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, Polytechnic Diploma or other equivalent qualifications including those from overseas institutions • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) record
SINGAPORE AIRLINES LIMITED			
Singapore Airlines Open Overseas Scholarship	All courses from top universities overseas are considered except Architecture, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy.	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance • One-off pre-studies allowance • Air passage at beginning and end of course • Annual trip to any point on Singapore Airlines' global network • Reimbursement of fees for university applications and entrance tests • Vacation attachments to a Singapore Airlines office Bond Duration: 6 years	• Strong academic records in Secondary School and Junior College/International Baccalaureate (IB)/ Polytechnic • Strong leadership qualities as demonstrated in CCA and National Service (if applicable)
Singapore Airlines - Mendaki Overseas Scholarship	All courses from top universities overseas are considered except Architecture, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy.	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance • One-off pre-studies allowance • Air passage at beginning and end of course • Annual trip to any point on Singapore Airlines' global network • Reimbursement of fees for university applications and entrance tests • Vacation attachments to a Singapore Airlines office Bond Duration: 6 years	• Strong academic records in Secondary School and Junior College/International Baccalaureate (IB)/ Polytechnic • Strong leadership qualities as demonstrated in CCA and National Service (if applicable)
Singapore Airlines - SINDA Overseas Scholarship	All courses from top universities overseas are considered except Architecture, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy.	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance • One-off pre-studies allowance • Air passage at beginning and end of course • Annual trip to any point on Singapore Airlines' global network • Reimbursement of fees for university applications and entrance tests • Vacation attachments to a Singapore Airlines office Bond Duration: 6 years	• Strong academic records in Secondary School and Junior College/International Baccalaureate (IB)/ Polytechnic • Strong leadership qualities as demonstrated in CCA and National Service (if applicable)
SINGAPORE-INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP (SgIS)			
SgIS Full-Term	COURSES Dependent on sponsoring organisations' requirements. Visit www.singaporeindustrialscholarship.sg for the list of sponsored courses of study. • Nanyang Technological University (NTU) • National University of Singapore (NUS) • Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) • Singapore Management University (SMU) • Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) • Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD)	• Full tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Maintenance and other allowances (e.g. books, computer) • Hostel allowance • Overseas exchange sponsorship (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: 3 years with Sponsoring Organisation (for SIT graduates) 4 years with Sponsoring Organisation (for NTU, NUS, SMU, SUSS and SUTD)	• Singapore Citizens • Recent graduates with good GCE 'A' Level certification (at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma or Polytechnic Diploma • Good Co-curricular Activities (CCA) records • Passion to contribute to strategic sectors in Singapore • Seeking admission or have been accepted for admission to the following institutions across all disciplines (excluding Medicine, Dentistry and other healthcare-related disciplines): Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) • Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
SgIS Mid-Term Overseas	COURSES Dependent on sponsoring organisations' requirements. Visit www.singaporeindustrialscholarship.sg for the list of sponsored courses of study. • Good reputable universities overseas.	Scholarship will be given in the form of a one-time grant as partial coverage for university related expenses. i) Applicants with more than 2 academic years remaining in university at time of application - SGD 60,000 ii) Applicants with 1 to 2 academic years remaining in university at time of application - SGD 40,000	• Singapore Citizens • Have completed at least 1 academic semester in overseas university and have not embarked on final year of study at point of application • Good undergraduate results across all disciplines (excluding Medicine, Dentistry and other healthcare-related disciplines) from overseas universities • Good Co-curricular Activities (CCA) records • Passion to contribute to strategic sectors in Singapore.
SgIS Mid-Term Local	COURSES Dependent on sponsoring organisations' requirements. Visit www.singaporeindustrialscholarship.sg for the list of sponsored courses of study. • Nanyang Technological University (NTU) • National University of Singapore (NUS) • Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) • Singapore Management University (SMU) • Singapore University of Social Sciences(SUSS) • Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD)	Scholarship will be given in the form of a one-time grant as partial coverage for university related expenses. i) Applicants with at least 1 academic year remaining in university at time of application - SGD 30,000 ii) Applicants with 1 to 2 academic years remaining in university at time of application - SGD 50,000	• Singapore Citizens • Have completed at least 1 academic semester in local university (as per SgIS Full-Term) and have not embarked on final year of study at point of application • Good undergraduate results across all disciplines (excluding Medicine, Dentistry and other healthcare-related disciplines) • Good Co-curricular Activities (CCA) records • Passion to contribute to strategic sectors in Singapore.
SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY (SMU)			
Lee Kong Chian Scholars' Programme	Accountancy, Economics, Information Systems, Law or Social Science and Business Management.	• Tuition fee waiver (after MOE tuition grant subsidy) • \$516,000 Global Opportunities grant to fund part or combination of the following: • Overseas Student Exchange/ Summer Programme • Overseas Study Trip organised by the Centre for Scholars' Development • Overseas Community Service Project • Overseas Case Competitions and presentations at Conferences • \$55,000 annual living allowance • \$31,800 one-time computer allowance upon enrolment • Participation in development opportunities offered by the Centre for Scholars' Development Bond Duration: No Bond	• Full-time SMU first year undergraduate student of any nationality pursuing a double degree programme, with Business Management as one of the two degrees • Outstanding academic results • Demonstrates leadership and communications skills • Substantial record of co-curricular activity and/or community service involvement
SMU Global Impact Scholarship Award	All programmes	• Tuition fees coverage (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • \$55,000 annual living allowance • \$51,800 one-time computer allowance upon enrollment • \$514,000 Global Learning Opportunities Worldwide (GLOW) grant to fund part or combination of the following: • Overseas Student Exchange/Summer Programme • Overseas Community Service Project • Overseas School Study Missions • Overseas Case Competitions and presentations at Conferences • An optional concurrent or sequential SMU Master's programme up to \$540,000 • Up to \$59,000 for on-campus accommodation at the SMU Prinsep Street Residences in first year of studies Bond Duration: No Bond Total scholarship value: \$5130,600 (non-Law) and \$5135,400 (Law)* *Based on annual subsidised tuition fees in Academic Year 2018-2019 Tuition fees coverage (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy)	• Be Singapore Citizens • Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, local Polytechnic Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma, NUS High School Diploma or equivalent qualifications • Demonstrate strong leadership capabilities and potential • Possess excellent record in co-curricular and/or community activities • Be applying for admission to a full-time undergraduate degree programme at SMU
SMU Merit Scholarship Programme	All programmes	• Tuition fee waiver (after MOE tuition grant subsidy) • Growth opportunities allowance of \$512,000 to fund part or combination of the following: • Overseas Student Exchange/Summer Programme • Overseas Community Service Project • Overseas School Study Missions • Overseas Case Competitions and presentations at Conferences • Participation in development opportunities offered by the Centre for Scholars' Development Bond Duration: No Bond	• Be Singapore Citizens • Possess outstanding academic results • Demonstrate strong leadership capabilities and potential • Possess excellent records in co-curricular and/or community activities • Be applying for admission to a full-time undergraduate degree programme at SMU
Yip Pin Xiu Scholarship	All programmes	• Tuition fee waiver (after MOE tuition grant subsidy) • Growth opportunities allowance of \$512,000 to fund part or combination of the following: • Overseas Student Exchange/Summer Programme • Overseas Community Service Project • Overseas School Study Missions • Overseas Case Competitions and presentations at Conferences • Participation in development opportunities offered by the Centre for Scholars' Development Bond Duration: No Bond	• Be Singapore Citizens • Possess good academic results • Demonstrate strong leadership capabilities and potential • Be outstanding athletes who have excelled in sports at the international level and with the potential and plans to continue to represent Singapore and achieve further glory. These include those who have been awarded a medal at the SEA Games and/or are projected by their respective National Sports Association) to have a podium finish, minimally at the SEA Games and/or at the other Major Games or equivalent competition • Have gained admission to a full-time undergraduate degree programme at SMU

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information, log on to www.scholarschoice.com.sg

ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS (SPH)			
SPH Journalism Scholarship • Undergraduate Scholarship (Local/ Overseas) • Mid-Term Scholarship (Local/ Overseas)	Any discipline except Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Architecture & Law	Overseas • Tuition and compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance • Pre Studies Allowance • Return airfare Local • Tuition and compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance • Pre Studies Allowance Bond Duration: Depending on the value of the scholarship	• A greatly inquisitive mind, a passion to bring the truth to the forefront and an aptitude to bring news to life • Outstanding academic profiles • Impressive record of co-curricular activities • Strong language skills (English, Chinese, Malay or Tamil)
SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN (SUTD)			
SUTD Technology Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) Scholarship	STEP - A 4.5-year integrated Bachelor-Master programme, which includes a one-year entrepreneurship and innovation immersion programme in the US and China Students will graduate with both a SUTD bachelor degree with a major in one of the four pillars: • Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD) • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) • and a Master of Science in Technology Entrepreneurship Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore	• Covers subsidised tuition fees for the normal duration of the bachelor degree and master degree courses at SUTD up to 10 academic terms • Travel grant to be applied towards travel-related expenses for participation in a one-year overseas programme in the world's most entrepreneurial regions – USA (such as San Francisco Bay Area) and China (such as Hangzhou and Xi'an) Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all Singapore Citizens. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Demonstrate strong communication skills and leadership potential. • Have a passion for technology, design and entrepreneurship.
SUTD-SMU Dual Degree Programme (SUTD-SMU DDP) Scholarship	SUTD-SMU DDP – Synergising SUTD's strength in technology and design and SMU's expertise in business management, graduate with two Bachelor degrees in 4.5 years Students will graduate with both a Bachelor of Business Management from SMU, and a Bachelor of Engineering from SUTD with a major in one of the three pillars: • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) • Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore • Singapore Management University (SMU)/Singapore	• Depending on the financial needs of the applicant, the scholarship may cover the subsidised tuition fees for the normal duration of the respective courses at SUTD and SMU (up to 12 academic terms) and/or an allowance for overseas internship, overseas opportunities, laptop, books and stipend. Based on the value of the Scholarship awarded, students will be obliged to work in a Singapore-registered company for a period up to 2.5 years upon graduation.	• Open to all Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma or International Baccalaureate Diploma. • Demonstrate strong communication skills and leadership potential. • Passion for technology, design and business. Note: We are currently accepting applications only for the AY2019 intake to the SUTD-SMU DDP.
SUTD Global Distinguished Scholarship	All SUTD students go through a common freshman year (Terms 1 to 3) before selecting one of the four pillars: • Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD) • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) This scholarship is also applicable for students from the SUTD Honours and Research Programme (SHARP) and SUTD-DUKE-NUS Special Track. Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore	• Covers subsidised tuition fees for the normal duration of study for the bachelor degree programme (8 academic terms) • Programme fees and travel grant for the Global Leadership Programme (overseas summer programme of at least 8 weeks) • Study-related allowance of \$55,000 every 2 academic terms • Leadership development as a University Ambassador Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all Singapore Citizens • Outstanding Singapore Permanent Residents or International Students are also eligible. However, the scholarship will only cover the tuition fees at the rate payable by Singapore Citizens, with the recipient having to pay the difference. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Passion for technology and design
SUTD Global Merit Scholarship	All SUTD students go through a common freshman year (Terms 1 to 3) before selecting one of the four pillars: • Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD) • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) This scholarship is also applicable for students from the SUTD Honours and Research Programme (SHARP) and SUTD-DUKE-NUS Special Track. Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore	• Covers subsidised tuition fees for the normal duration of study (up to 8 academic terms) for the bachelor degree programme • Programme fees and travel grant for the Global Leadership Programme (overseas summer programme of at least 8 weeks) • Leadership development as a University Ambassador Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all Singapore Citizens • Outstanding Singapore Permanent Residents or International Students are also eligible. However, the scholarship will only cover the tuition fees at the rate payable by Singapore Citizens, with the recipient having to pay the difference. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Passion for technology and design.
YALE-NUS COLLEGE			
Yale-NUS Global Leader Scholarship	Open to all nationalities. Period of award: 4 years University: Yale-NUS College Country of study: Singapore	• 100% subsidized tuition fees • 100% residential college fees • \$53,500 per year living and book allowance • One-time \$52,000 computer allowance • One-time \$510,000 overseas student exchange programme fund Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Simply apply to Yale-NUS College and you will automatically be considered for the merit-based scholarships. • No additional materials or interviews required. Applicants will be assessed in our holistic admission review.
Yale-NUS Faculty Scholarship	Open to all nationalities. Period of award: 4 years University: Yale-NUS College Country of study: Singapore	\$520,000 per year towards subsidized tuition fees, regardless of nationality Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Simply apply to Yale-NUS College and you will automatically be considered for the merit-based scholarships. • No additional materials or interviews required. Applicants will be assessed in our holistic admission review.
Yale-NUS Dean Scholarship	Open to all nationalities. Period of award: 4 years University: Yale-NUS College Country of study: Singapore	\$58,380 per year to cover full residential college fees Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Simply apply to Yale-NUS College and you will automatically be considered for the merit-based scholarships. • No additional materials or interviews required. Applicants will be assessed in our holistic admission review.
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (URA)			
URA Overseas/Local Scholarship	• Architecture / Urban Design • Landscape Architecture • Town / Urban Planning • Civil / Environmental Engineering • Economics • Geography • Real Estate • Environmental Studies • Mathematics / Statistics • Computer / Data Science Local and overseas universities	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance and other allowances • Support for student exchange programme and return airfare (where applicable) Bond Duration: • Local study bond: 4 years • Overseas study bond: 6 years	• Candidates must have good academic results and CCA records. • Existing undergraduates can apply for our mid-term scholarship.
SMART NATION (CSA / GOVTECH / IMDA)			
Smart Nation Scholarship	ICT related courses [^] Example of courses but list is not meant to be exhaustive: • Computer Science • Computer Engg • Electrical & Electronic Engg • Mechanical Engg • Information Technology • Information Systems &/or Design • Information Engg • Information & Comm's • Engg in Product Development • Systems Engg • Maths/Statistics/Economics • Behavioural Science • Physics • Law (specifically for IMDA) [^] If currently not in a ICT related course but interested to take up a double degree in ICT, you will also be considered.	Overseas/Local Award includes: • Tuition and other compulsory fees such as application and examination fees • Mid-term scholars [^] (overseas or local) may opt to backdate the scholarship • Living allowance for day-to-day expenses such as bills and living costs • Opportunities for sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, seminars and conferences • Opportunities for sponsorship of professional courses/certifications taken during course of study • Additional sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) will be considered on a case-by-case basis • Upon graduation, direct admission to a talent programme with the chosen agency [^] Mid-term scholarship applicants must have at least one semester of university results at the point of application and have not embarked on final year of study. Bond Duration: • Overseas Studies: 6 years • Local Studies: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens (includes Permanent Residents who are taking up Singapore Citizenship). • GCE 'A' Level results (or equivalent) or Polytechnic Diploma. • Exemplary co-curricular activities record. • Passionate about having a career in technology. • Pursue an ICT-related degree programme.

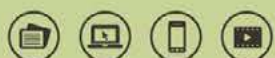


**I toured
the home
of master
potter
Iskandar
Jalil.**

Toh Wen Li
Journalist
The Straits Times



Journalism goes beyond
the 24-hour news cycle
of current affairs. I have
journeyed through the
homes of artists and
discovered the muse of
Singapore's greatest
creative minds. As a
journalist, you never know
what to expect at work.
If you're inspired by the
spirit of discovery, come
take the path less travelled.





Application deadline: Undergraduate Scholarship: **15 February 2019** Mid-Term Scholarship: **15 April 2019**
Scan the QR code to sign up. Alternatively, email scholars@sph.com.sg



SCHOLARS' CHOICE III

Credit to the nation

A career in the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore is more than just being the government's tax collector, says Mr Gordon Cheong

BY BRYANT CHAN

Interested in an exciting career that will challenge you with its dynamic and constantly-changing nature?

You might find your answer in an unexpected place: the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS).

Mr Gordon Cheong, 30, did. While he was a student at the Singapore Management University, he applied for the mid-term IRAS Merit Scholarship after taking some tax-related courses.

He explains: "As tax laws and standards evolve rapidly over time, a tax professional must always learn and keep up with the changes to stay relevant."

"Being in the tax industry means that I need to possess a set of strong analytical, strategic thinking and communication skills, and I enjoy using these skills to overcome the daily challenges I face in my career."

Wearer of many hats

It was the prospect of embarking on such a career that led him to apply for the scholarship.

And what opportunities he has had. During his five years at IRAS, Mr Cheong has already worn more hats than a haberdasher. He has taken on various positions within the Corporate Tax Division at IRAS, and is currently seconded to the Tax Policy Directorate in the Ministry of Finance (MOF), as the head of its international tax unit.

"These postings deepened my capabilities



Mr Cheong has taken on a myriad of roles in his five years with IRAS. PHOTO: TED CHEN

in taxation and prepared me well for my future postings," he says.

In his current capacity, he leads a team that continuously reviews Singapore's international tax policy, in order to ensure that the country's economy remains a sustainable and attractive destination for businesses — a priority for both IRAS and MOF.

This is no simple task, due to the sheer number of stakeholders involved in each of his projects. Much of the work on international tax, such as the implementation of international tax standards, involves collaboration among different units as well as ministries and government agencies.

A job well done

Coordination on such a large scale requires colossal effort, but to Mr Cheong, it is all worth it, knowing that his contributions are recognised on a global scale.

For instance, a major point of pride for him was the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's positive assessment of Singapore's tax incentives. The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information also gave Singapore's exchange of information regime the highest possible rating.

This endless parade of new opportunities is what keeps him fired up, day after day. "I expect each day to present new challenges, as we work together as one public sector to overcome them," he continues.

"It's by far the most rewarding part of the job."

IRAS Merit Scholarship

CRITERIA:

- Outstanding A-level results, polytechnic results or equivalent, outstanding CCA records and leadership qualities

VALUE OF AWARD:

- For local students, full sponsorship including maintenance allowance, tuition fees, pre-studies allowance, computer allowance, miscellaneous allowance and other compulsory fees

BOND PERIOD:

- Four years (bachelor's degree), five years (bachelor's and master's degrees)

Terms and conditions apply.

sweet

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SMART NATION SCHOLARSHIP

ADVANCE YOUR POTENTIAL. SHAPE OUR NATION.

The Smart Nation Scholarship develops and nurtures technology talents and leaders within public service. Offered by the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA), Government Technology Agency (GovTech), and Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), the scholarship provides opportunities to carve out a career pathway in applied technology for the public good.

The future belongs to those who dare.

ADVANCE
Fast-track your career and professional growth.

IMPACT
Play your part in shaping Singapore's success as a Smart Nation.

LEAD
Take on strategic roles in technology within public service.